



Jordan Times

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Iraq said imposing cuts on foreign travel

AMMAN (R) — Iraq has imposed new rules to cut the number of Iraqis travelling abroad, Jordanian officials said Monday. "As far as we understand it, traders, businessmen, those who have residence permits in other countries and others who have valid reasons for their travel are free to leave Iraq whenever they wish," one official said. "But there are also limits that apply to other categories of people," he said without giving any further details. Several Iraqi travellers reaching Amman said that under new rules, women — allowed to travel only if accompanied by a close male relative — pensioners and university and school students could now leave Iraq only twice a year. The Iraqi embassy declined to comment on the reported changes. But Jordanian officials and Iraqi sources close to the Baghdad government said the move was aimed at stopping quick trips to Jordan by Iraqis to sell cigarettes and cooking pots on Amman streets. "These steps were taken as part of Iraq moves to preserve foreign exchange by reducing spending on luxury imports and unnecessary travel," said a Jordanian official.

New Arab order must be predicated on freedom, pluralism

King urges Jordanians to consolidate democracy, warns peace opponents

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will continue to build and strengthen its democratic institutions, pursue a just and lasting peace in the region and lead the quest for the establishment of a new Arab order "far removed from the strains of oil, consumerism and tyranny," His Majesty King Hussein said Monday.

In an address to the graduating officers of the Royal Staff and Command College, the King underlined Jordan's insistence on taking independent political decisions in line with its strong sense of history and proclaimed principles of justice and Arab dignity. "I reiterate my call to the nation in the hope that it would revive its renaissance, sharpen its will and record for history a chapter similar to that of our fathers and grandfathers, characterised by freedom, enlightened vision, knowledge, reason and human dignity," the King said in his second speech to the nation since his return from the United States where he underwent cancer surgery.

In a 50-minute address that sought to lay down the path for democracy in Jordan, the King strongly warned against traditionalist dogmatism, fundamentalism or the misuse of the atmosphere of openness in the Kingdom — by outsiders — to create social and civil disorder. "Regrettably, (I have) observed that certain forces within the country have held on to their previous positions — clouded of vision, narrow of per-

spective, looking towards external powers, some of which have collapsed at the hands of their own architects, or have seen their symbols disintegrate, or have established alliances with those who belittle the nation's affairs and harbour greedy intentions or have forged links — difficult to extricate themselves from — with the proponents of backwardness and oppression."

He stressed that Jordan has chosen the path of democracy, a commitment which will remain with it and become its objective. The King told the graduates, who included in addition to Jordanian officers, Tunisian, Sudanese, Mauritanian, Lebanese, Pakistani and French officers, that Jordan has chosen to adhere to a "set of firm beliefs in which our political life is rooted."

"Foremost among these (are) a strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, to the immortal message of Islam as a faith and a civilisation to the banners of freedom, justice and human dignity as a beacon and a way of life and to protecting the interests and independence of Jordan, as an ultimate objective."

The King called on Arab "revolutionaries" to rise up against the Arab status quo and join Jordan in working towards a new Arab order which champions human rights, democracy and would "lift us out of the ashes of inaction into a burning light that would relieve the darkness of the long Arab night."

King Hussein linked his call for a new Arab order with his strongest criticism yet of Arab states which have ostracised Jordan since the eruption of the Gulf crisis. Without naming Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the King alluded to them through references to oil.

The King seemed to reject reported demands by some Saudi Arabia that Jordan apologise publicly for its stand during the Gulf crisis — misread by many in the West and the Arab World to mean support for Iraq's invasion and consequent occupation of Kuwait, when he said:

"We will continue the struggle, leaving behind those Arabs who have resorted back to their tribalism and arrogance after they had flooded the nation with their oil; and those who were restored to their thrones by foreigners — whose spears are still stained with the blood of their Arab brethren. Nor do we care about that who revels in sin and who swears by the head of his father that he is be-all and end-all demands that people should come to him and should sacrifice their camels in front of him, all the time wishing him long life, while remaining grateful and thankful."

"We should look for an order imbued with a purity of spirit and the spotlessness of true revolutionaries, an order far removed from the stains of oil, consumerism and tyranny, an order characterised by a raging commitment to what is right, an order through which we can alleviate hunger, quench the thirst for freedom and aid the oppressed," the King said.

"Let the activists, thinkers and pioneers of this good, honest,



poor yet dignified (Arab) nation come forward to uphold its message and put an end to division and disarray," he said. The speech, which upped the tone on the range of issues on which Jordanians have been seeking clarifications from the King, accorded special attention to Jordan's ties with Iraq, highlighting the need for the Iraqi regime, opposition and people to work towards "national reconciliation."

"What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it (Iraq) to overcome all obstacles. We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability, establish trust among brethren, and achieve complementarity."

should settle their differences within the Arab ranks rather than taking military action. "If faced with a difficult situation, we would revert back to our nation, taking into consideration that we are part and parcel of this one nation, and that none of us should, under any circumstances, deviate from the general consensus with disregard to the consequences to its people and nation."

His statement also clearly linked the invasion with the Iraqi people during the war and, after that, under the U.N.-imposed sanctions. "The people of Iraq have truly stood steadfast and endured to a degree far beyond human tolerance," the King added.

While venting out his frustration at the sad state of Arab affairs and his lack of faith in the emerging new world order, the King used the opportunity to remind Jordanians that it was precisely this situation which formed the backdrop to Jordan's decision to enter Middle East peace negotiations a year ago. "We have joined the process under conditions of international and Arab collapse of which you are aware. Had we not been constrained by a sense of honour and decency, we could have spoken out about some of our Arab brethren, who were aiming their spears at fellow Arabs, missing us by no more than a narrow margin."

The King reiterated Jordan's commitment to continue the "battle for peace." He used very strong words in support of Jordan's role in the talks, its commitment to the principles of the

Palestinian cause and his rejection of attempts by political groups in the country — fundamentalists and leftist rejectionists — as well as forces from outside — Iran and opposition Palestinian factions — to meddle in Jordan's affairs or question its integrity.

"We have declared that we are joining the battle of peace... on the basis of an independent Jordanian position," the King said, explaining that this sense of sovereignty did not work in absence of a strong understanding of the "disequilibrium which has beset the nation and the world as well as the changing demographic realities, the independence of the Palestinian decision and the historical constants upheld by generations over time."

The King reaffirmed Jordan's "determination to stand up to those elements which seek to impair our country's image and take us back to the past."

"And if they outstep the limits at which they ought to draw the line, they will be faced with all that is necessary to protect democracy and ensure that they are stopped in their tracks," he said. Describing Jordan's position in the peace process as "moral," the King lashed out against critics of the Jordanian-Israeli draft agenda for the negotiations and questioned their motives asking "what then prompts some, in their spite, to outbid us?"

"Could one consider the presentation, after one year of negotiations, to the two negotiating

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Full text of speech on page 4

U.N. plane attacked in Somalia

Jordan Times' P.V. Vivekanand gives an eyewitness report

THE LAWLESS abyss Somalia has plunged into could not have brought any closer to home than looking down the barrel of a machine-gun totted by someone who did not look older than 13 years but showed every sign of knowing well how to use the weapon.

The bullets did not come as feared, but then the eight of us — six passengers and two pilots — had to watch helplessly as gunmen swarmed around and walked away with our possessions from a plane standing still on a tarmac, less than 80 metres away from the terminal.

It could not have happened anywhere but Somalia, and as the plane — minus the passengers' baggage of course — hightailed out the place, the feeling sank in: "This is a country where people have learnt to live and die by the gun and it is going to be one hell of a job for anyone to bring law and order to these barren deserts."

It was one of the routine flights chartered by the U.N. to ferry relief workers and essential supplies between Somalia and Kenya, and no-one expected it to be any different to the dozens of planes that take off and land everyday in the desolate deserts of the Horn of Africa country.

Five passengers were aboard the plane which took off from Mogadishu, the Somali capital on the Indian Ocean, on its way to Kenya at around 12 noon. Soon the plane landed at Kismayo, about 300 kilometres down the coast, to pick up another U.N. official.

It did not take more than five minutes for the passenger to come aboard the Beechcraft piloted by two South Africans. And then it moved on again, taxiing ahead to take off towards Nairobi.

Suddenly a five-tonne military truck loomed ahead on the runway, blocking the plane's path. A small boy carrying a handgun jumped down from the truck and gestured with his weapon that we should all get down.

The co-pilot opened the door and got down, along with two Somali-speaking U.N. officials. An argument ensued: "We don't know any U.N. or anyone else," we could hear some saying in English. "Everybody gives every body something, but we get nothing... we are hungry."

"Everybody off the plane," came another order. The co-pilot came to the door and suggested that it might be a good idea if all of us got down unless, of course,

we wanted the plane blasted away.

Some of us took our passports and hid them away in trouser pockets and shoved flight bags under seats before getting down. Indeed it was a wise move as the course of events proved.

None of the 20 or so gunmen looked more than 20 years; some of them looked around 12. They were carrying AK-47s, M-16s and an assortment of other guns which I could not recognise.

At least two heavy anti-aircraft guns were mounted on the truck in addition to the machineguns levelled directly at the plane and its passengers.

One look was more than enough to convince all of us of the wisdom of getting out of the plane.

As soon as we got down two teenagers wanted to get aboard. A courageous Swedish relief official had to abandon his effort to block them after one of the boys pointed a gun at his head.

Hell broke loose. Shots were heard from everywhere, left, right and centre and there was only time to duck and pray the bullets were not aimed at anyone of us.

As I looked up from my prone position, I could see the boys coming down the plane with our baggage. "What can we do? I asked Cathrine-Schulte-Hillen,

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Palestinians undecided on whether to attend 8th round of talks

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinians have agreed to delay a final decision on their participation in the next round of peace talks at its scheduled date, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in Tunis said Monday.

"It was agreed to delay the decision until consulting with Arab parties to the talks and other countries on Israel's intransigent position," Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Bureau in Tunis told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Consultations between Palestinians and the co-sponsors of the peace talks as well as the other Arab participants in the talks, scheduled to meet in Beirut at the end of the month, are expected to take place in the next 14 days. Results of the consultations are expected to determine whether the Palestinian leadership will de-

mand delaying the talks.

A source close to the meeting, however, told the Associated Press (AP) that participants were divided into four groups — those calling for complete withdrawal from the talks, a group favouring a suspension of Palestinian participation, one asking for a postponement of the eighth round of talks, and another supporting full participation.

The Palestinians are expected to approach the co-sponsors of the talks, the U.S. and Russia, as well as members of the European Community and Arab countries to pressure Israel into abandoning its "intransigent" position which the PLO believes responsible for the deadlock in the talks.

"A timetable, adherence to the terms of reference and the principle of land for peace as outlined in U.N. (Security Council) resolutions 242 and 338 will be the fundamental issues" that the PLO will raise with the co-

sponsors of the talks particularly the U.S., said Mr. Hilal.

The PLO hopes that European efforts, led mainly by French President Francois Mitterrand, who will visit Jordan and Israel next week, will also play a role in rejuvenating the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

"The Non-Aligned countries, the Arab countries and all international bodies will receive an appeal to pressure Israel to adhere to the terms of reference of the Madrid conference so the talks can begin to produce some results," Mr. Hilal said.

The PLO is also expected to lobby within Palestinian ranks for sanctioning continued Palestinian participation in the talks.

According to members of the PLO inner circle, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will be taking an increasingly unpopular stand if he chooses to sanction participation

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Algerian press attacks premier, fears future

ALGIERS (R) — Independent newspapers accused Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam on Monday of wanting to reestablish press controls, threatening the only survivor of Algeria's experiment with democracy.

"The independent press constitutes the last small island of democracy in this country which must be saved at any price," El Watan said in a lead story headlined: "Belaid Abdesselam goes too far."

It said editors at emergency meeting on Sunday decided to protest to the five-man presidency ruling Algeria over Mr. Abdesselam's attack on non-government papers at the weekend.

The prime minister said on television that the private press was independent only of the government — not of financial or "even foreign interests."

Newspapers rejected his accusations and expressed alarm at his charge that they used "treason and corruption" to achieve their ends and put "spies in the cogs of the administration."

Mr. Abdesselam, a minister during the 1970s socialist era of President Houari Boumedienne, came under attack last week from newspapers which accused him of acting autocratically in sacking Justice Minister Abdelhamid Mahi Bahl.

On Monday under a headline "Abdesselam goes to war," Liberte newspaper said: "His accusations, in Stalinist tones, against the independent press awaken the old demons of the inquisition from the dark Boumedienne period, in which he was one of the valued assistants."

It said he dreamed of returning to a controlled press, and said: "development of the independent press is an achievement of democracy and the Algerian people."

Joining the unprecedented criticism, the Algerian Renewal Party said his comments were "as irresponsible as they are indecent." The Rally for Culture and Democracy termed them "violent."

The Arabic-language El Khabar said they merited legal action. El Djazzair Al Youm said "No, we are not mercenaries."

Government newspapers made no comment. Algeria launched democratic reforms after riots in 1988 and helped set up the newspapers that ended a government monopoly.

Israelis kill 12-year-old Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers dressed as civilians shot and killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy Monday when they opened fire to break up a stone-throwing incident on the edge of Jerusalem, Arab witnesses said.

The Israeli army said soldiers shot the boy but would not confirm they were in civilian clothes. An army statement said the death occurred during an "initiated operation," a phrase used for an army raid.

Palestinian reports said several youths were throwing stones and blocking the road with rocks and trash when three men arrived in a white unmarked car.

The men, in civilian clothes, shouted that they were soldiers, ordered the youths to halt and then opened fire, witnesses said.

An army statement said the boy killed was throwing stones. But Palestinian witnesses said the boy was crossing the street with a schoolmate, became frightened and tried to run away.

The victim was identified as Amjad Jaber of the village of Ram in the occupied West Bank.

His death brought to 982 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the five-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

In a related development the Israeli human rights group B'tselem called Monday for an investigation into a raid by paramilitary border police in which

two Palestinians were killed. The group, which was joined in its call by two Palestinian human rights organisations, said it appeared that the suspects had surrendered and were unarmed when the police opened fire on them Saturday in the village of Arabe in the occupied West Bank.

"Concern has been raised that the two men... were shot after they obeyed the policemen's orders and exited from the house in which they were hiding with their hands raised and while they were not armed," B'tselem said.

The group urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also serves as defence minister, to launch "an urgent and in-depth investigation" into the case.

Appeals for an independent probe also came from the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre and Al Haq Law in the Service of Man, a Palestinian legal aid group.

There was no immediate comment from the government. The army spokesman's office said it stood by a statement issued earlier that the men were armed and that "one of the wanted men tried to open fire at the force."

The killings were the latest in a series of raids aimed at apprehending Palestinians wanted for anti-Israeli activity in the nearly five-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Human rights groups have accused the Israeli military of a "shoot to kill" policy. The army says troops involved in raids must abide by the same firing instructions as regular troops.

Meanwhile, Israel opened its first road tunnel on Monday to speed Jewish settlers past Arab villages in the occupied West Bank from Jerusalem to Hebron.

The road was started under the previous right-wing Likud government but is being continued by Yitzhak Rabin's Labour administration whose pledge to freeze Jewish settlements does not apply to areas around Jerusalem.

The 265-metres long tunnel is the first of two planned for the road which will slice for nine km (5.5 miles) through the Judean hills and bypass Bethlehem. The road will cost up to 100 million shekels (\$40 million).

A second 900-metres (2,950-foot) long tunnel next year and a bridge will let Jews living in the Etzion Bloc settlements skirt Palestinian villages and Deheish refugee camp near Bethlehem.

The Etzion Bloc is a group of settlements dotting the road between Jerusalem and Hebron.

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, who opened the tunnel, said the road showed Israel intended to hold on to the Etzion Bloc in any peace agreement with the Palestinians.

He said the settlements were vital to Jerusalem's security.

Security Council rules out easing of sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council on Monday declared that Baghdad has not fully complied with requirements that it eliminate its mass destruction weapons, recognise Kuwait and cooperate with U.N. resolutions that ended the Gulf war.

The council's declaration of Iraqi non-compliance appeared to rule out any immediate easing of sanctions against Iraq.

Before the meeting, the council's president, Hungarian Ambassador Andre Erdos told reporters, "there is a long way to go for Iraq to make the council have a second thought about the sanctions regime."

"There's been no movement to date which would give the council any inclination to consider lifting or modifying the sanctions any time in the near future."

Mr. Erdos later read a lengthy statement detailing Iraqi non-compliance at the council meet-

ing, which was attended by Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sabah.

The Iraqi officials have requested easing of the U.N. economic embargo, which Baghdad blames for many civilian deaths due to lack of medicines and infant formula. They were expected to address the council later.

Food and medical supplies are not barred from Iraq under the U.N. embargo.

"Nobody will be fooled by these sayings, that 'people are dying on the street,'" Mr. Erdos said, before the council meeting.

The United Nations has "been trying desperately to get food and medicine shipments to Iraq" to Kurdish and Shiite areas, as well as the rest of the country.

The Iraqi officials later heard Mr. Erdos tell them, speaking for the whole council, that "Iraq has

up to now only selectively and then partially complied with the obligations placed upon it by the council."

Among the Iraqi shortcomings cited by the council:

— Failure to recognise the new border drawn between Iraq and Kuwait by U.N. surveyors.

— Baghdad's claim that Kuwait is still Iraq's 19th province. "The members of the council firmly rejected any suggestion that tended to dispute the existence of Kuwait," it said.

— Failure to provide full information on the production of Scud-type missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres (93 miles), which must all be destroyed.

— Rejecting U.N. plans to monitor industries that could have wartime uses.

— Threatening U.N. surveillance

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Home News

Jordan, Russia discuss trade protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Russia opened talks in Amman on Monday to discuss the implementation of a trade protocol signed last year. The protocol, which was signed in Moscow, provides for the exchange of goods and services between the two countries. It also includes provisions for the establishment of a joint trade commission to monitor the implementation of the protocol. The talks were held at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where officials from both countries discussed the progress of the protocol and the challenges it faces. The protocol is expected to boost trade between Jordan and Russia, which has been a significant partner for Jordan in recent years.

Rigorous debate continues education conference

By Stephanie Genkin and Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Is the educational system in Jordan ready to undertake the reforms required to meet the challenges of the 21st century? This was the question asked at the second day of a seminar on educational policies in Jordan at the Amman Hotel. Experts at the seminar insisted that substantial changes in the structure and content of the curriculum are needed to transform the system into a modern one. They also stressed the need for a teacher who is qualified to handle the new challenges. The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Educational Society. It was the second day of a three-day event. The first day was devoted to the presentation of papers and the third day to a panel discussion. The seminar is expected to lead to the development of a new educational policy for Jordan.

Satellites displayed and telecommunication discussed

By Peter Saters
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's first satellite expo has been a "complete success" with attendance for exhibitors and visitors alike. The expo, which was opened by Minister of Communications Jamal Al Sarai, showcased the latest in satellite technology and discussed the role of telecommunications in the development of Jordan. The expo was held at the Amman Convention Center and featured a variety of exhibits, including satellite phones, modems, and other communication equipment. It also included a series of lectures and workshops on the latest in telecommunications. The expo is expected to lead to the development of a new telecommunications policy for Jordan.



KING MEETS US GENERAL: His Majesty King Hussein discussed Middle East developments and bilateral ties with one of the United States' top generals on Monday, General Joseph Hoar, who is Gulf war commander Norman Schwarzkopf's successor as Head of the U.S. Central Command. American-Jordanian ties have improved dramatically since reaching their lowest point when Washington froze aid to Amman after King Hussein criticised the Western-Arab anti-Iraq alliance. Washington has now approved \$20 million in military sales to Jordan last December and has spent \$1.7 million in military training since last year. The United States also resumed joint military exercises with Jordan in September after suspending them earlier in the year over violations of the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

Women work to be the cornerstone of development

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — The average Jordanian woman of today is higher educated, enjoys better health benefits, and has more political and personal freedom than many of her counterparts in other developing countries. This conclusion was reached by members of the Jordanian Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) who returned last week from a conference entitled: "Women are the cornerstone of development," held in Karachi, Pakistan. "We found that the Pakistani women's movement has great possibilities and exerts a tremendous effort in improving the situation of women, yet it lacks the support of the government and the proper climate in which it could operate more effectively," said Ms. Salwa Nasser, director of the BPWC. The conference was a good forum for discussing these projects with counterparts from other countries. We had several side-meetings in which we shared our experiences in Jordan and learned about the experiences of women in other developing countries," Ms. Nasser said. In the closing session of the conference, Ms. Hind Abdel Jaber, president of the BPWC, presented a report on the situation of Jordanian women in which she outlined some of Jordan's recent achievements in the areas of female education, employment, health, legal status and political rights, recommending that women should form pressure groups to influence decision makers and politicians to advance the role of women even further by the year 2000. "Keeping in mind that Jordanian women have been appointed as ministers, members of the Senate, members in higher education committees and members in peace negotiations, we look forward to a new era of development in which women are not only the cornerstone, but the foundation for development," Ms. Abdel Jaber concluded.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Philadelphia and American University of Beirut sign deal
AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from Philadelphia University returned from Beirut, after a visit to the American University which resulted in signing a cooperative agreement between the two establishments. The agreement concerns academic programmes and extracurricular activities as well as exchange of student visits and joint workshops in predefined fields of mutual interests.

Informatics committee meets at the RSS
AMMAN (Petra) — A committee on informatics created by the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) opened a three-day meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Monday. Representatives of computer sections from Arab countries are in attendance.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammed Moharrad at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative jewellery exhibit" at the American Centre (open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Hamoud Chantout at Baladna Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Protection of the Cultural Heritage in Jordan: Proposal for a comprehensive legislative approach" by Dr. Gaetano Palmbo at the Friends of Archaeology Centre — 7 p.m.

Hustings begin for election of house speaker

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deliberations have begun in the corridors of power as to who will be elected speaker of the Lower House on Dec. 1 when Parliament reconvenes for its last and final term before new legislative elections are held next summer.

The elections are not expected to bring about great change or alter the character of Parliament rather it will reinforce signs of continuity.

Three candidates are thus far vying for the most prestigious and powerful position within the Parliament's Lower House echelons, but the candidate most likely to succeed is current House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, according to members of Parliament.

The other two contenders are Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammo and Mohammad Adoub Zibin. Sheikh Gammo who holds the Zaqra seat for the minority group of Cherkassians and Chechen, Jordan's Caucasian Muslim minority, announced his candidacy two months ago.

He is known as an eccentric and was one of half a dozen deputies to actively lobby against the legalisation of political parties during last summer's debate on the draft bill. The bill was eventually passed and paved the way for the legalisation of political parties for the first time in 30 years.

The Zaqra deputy had argued that political parties promoting non-Islamic ideas are contrary to Islamic teaching and the whole concept of political parties was counterproductive in an Islamic society such as Jordan.

It was widely believed, however, that the Sheikh feared that political parties would undermine tribal-based leaders, such as himself, once they were legalised.

Mr. Zibin is a member of the 16-member National Bloc, and one of 6 deputies who represent Jordan's bedouin community. He is one of two deputies from the central bedouin district in the area of Madaba. He is member of the politically active Beni Sakre tribe.

Like Mr. Gammo, Mr. Zibin is politically conservative but unlike the Zaqra deputy he is affiliated with a bloc within Parliament as well as a political party. Mr. Zibin is backed by the National



Abdul Baqi Gammo



Abdul Latif Arabiyat



Mohammed Adoub Zibin

Bloc, of which he is a member and he also has political backing from the newly established Jordan National Alliance (JNA).

The JNA is a newly-formed political party founded by tribal leaders from the central and southern districts of the Kingdom. The party's political base is among traditional Jordanian tribalists and is believed to be the first party of its kind in the Kingdom.

The party's agenda consists of pledges to uphold national unity, sovereignty, an allegiance to the monarchy, the constitution and pan-Arab and national ideals and other standard slogans.

In practice the party is expected to further the everyday needs and interests of the bedouin regions and assure their continued representation in the legislative and executive branches of power.

The votes of the 80-member Lower House are expected to be scattered with the majority of the votes going to Mr. Arabiyat.

Mr. Arabiyat, a deputy from the Balqa region, is a member of the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc. He has distinguished himself through a smooth working relationship with the executive power and is popular with his bloc and some 15 independent Islamists in the Lower House.

He was elected to his current post during the second session of Parliament when he defeated incumbent speaker Sulaiman Arar, of the National Bloc, with an overwhelming majority.

The Balqa deputy returned for a second term when Abdul Majeed Shreideh, of the 15-member Constitution Bloc and the only

contender for the position, backed out of the race moments before the votes were cast. Mr. Shreideh's withdrawal was seen as part of a political "deal" between the government, which favoured Mr. Arabiyat's re-election, and the Constitution Bloc.

While some 30 votes from the Lower House floor are expected to be cast "automatically" in Mr. Arabiyat's favour, the incumbent is expected to receive the majority of the votes from the 10 deputies in the Cabinet as well.

Head of the National Bloc, Ma'an Deputy Sulaiman Arar told the Jordan Times that "as long as Mr. Zibin is still in the running for the post our bloc will support him."

Mr. Arar voiced concern that Mr. Zibin may drop out of the race at the last moment. Such moves upset the balance of power during the last election when both Mr. Arar and Democratic Bloc candidate Faris Nabulsi dropped out of the race 24 hours before Parliament reconvened. Mr. Arar said the votes of the National Bloc may be split should Mr. Zibin drop out of the race.

"Some will vote for Mr. Arabiyat, some for Mr. Gammo, some will abstain," he said. "Abstaining appears to be an option for the members of the Democratic Bloc, which groups tribalists and Bedouins in the Parliament's most unconventional political collection of deputies."

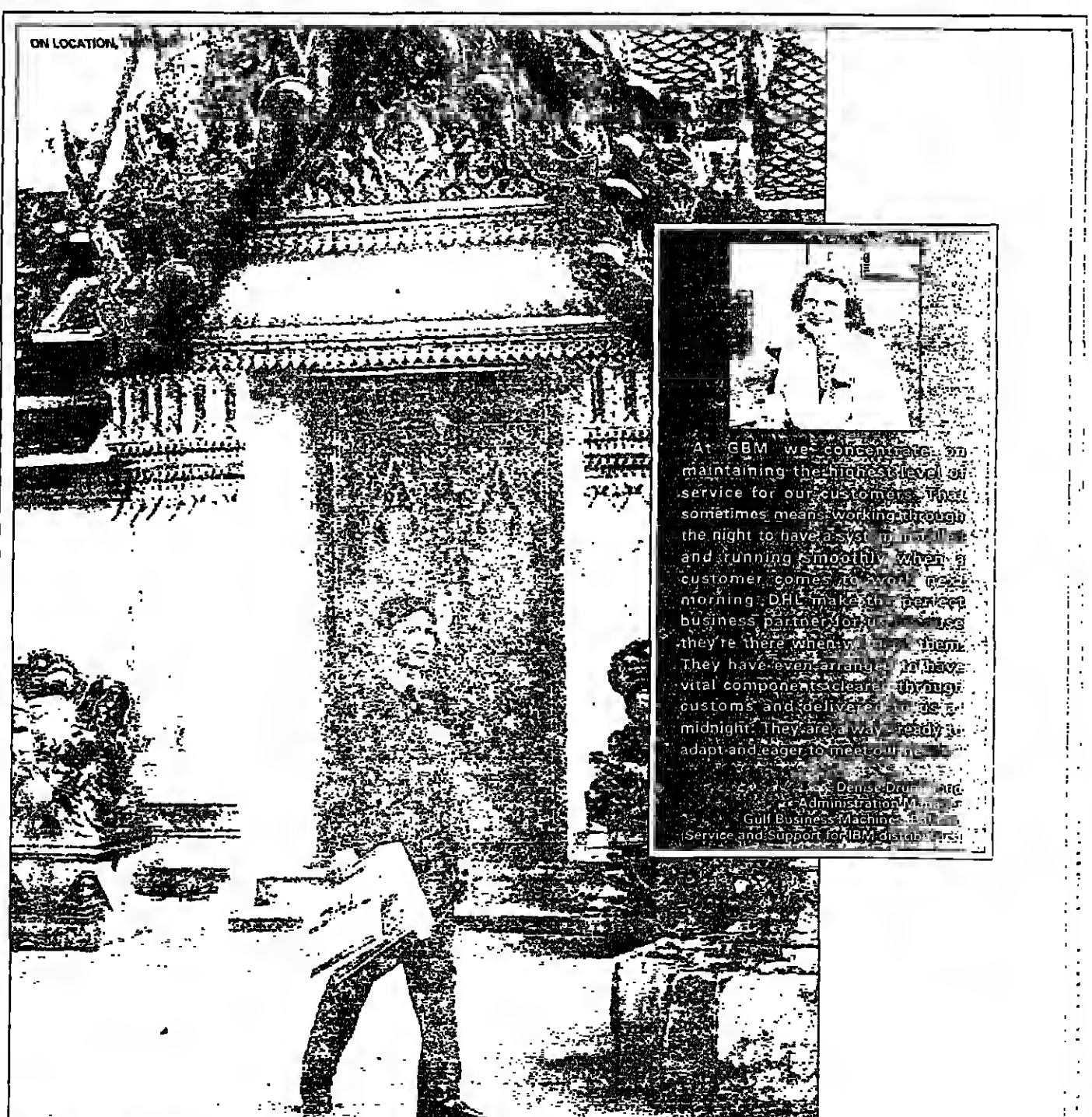
"We will be meeting in the 48 hours to come up with our options but we hope to vote as a bloc and we are considering abstention, although that has not been decided upon," the bloc spokesman, Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawa told the Jordan Times.

Politically none of the 160 candidates share any common ideological pattern with the Democratic Bloc. The conservative Constitution Bloc however seems to be ruling out abstention and is said to have narrowed down its choice of candidates to Mr. Arabiyat and Mr. Gammo.

"We may vote for any of the three but we have some conditions for those that want our bloc and deliberations are continuing with the candidates," Constitution Bloc member Mohammed Abu Oleim told the Jordan Times.

Prince Hashem attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Hashem bin Hussein attended Monday at the Islamic Cultural Centre the graduation ceremony of students who finished courses on the Holy Quran at the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs. Prince Hashem delivered an address in which he underlined the importance of learning for Muslims. Another address was delivered by Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khatib Al Tamimi. Mr. Tamimi stressed that the ministry was keen to increase the number of Holy Quran Centres all over the Kingdom, pointing out to the role of His Majesty King Hussein in this regard.



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Clear vision for the future

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the nation Monday provides Jordanians and Arabs alike with an enlightened vision for the future of Jordan and the Arab Nation. The King's tour d'horizon was both necessary and timely against the background of many Arab and non-Arab variables. These include the implications of the Gulf crisis and war, the ongoing Middle East peace process, and the success of the Jordanian democratic experience. The King summed it all up when he declared in his speech to senior military officers that Jordan is "joining the battle of peace, democracy and construction on the basis of an independent Jordanian decision."

There is not much to rejoice about the unipolar world, the King warned, because the champions of this "new world order," often "disregard what is right in some places and embrace it in others." We have seen this double standard applied again and again so it becomes redundant to cite examples of its manifestations. But this is not all in the shadow of this contemporary international system, the King continued, "There are some...who live lavishly while others are dying of hunger, some who enjoy the warmth of peace while others are being drawn into disastrous civil wars." This disequilibrium, deprivation, and injustice is also manifested in the Arab order itself. Arab nationalists have become strangers in their own homeland and modern Arab history is marked and manipulated by regionalism and foreign interests and recorded by "black or pure gold." This Arab deterioration had turned exceptionally bitter when some Arabs turned their spears on their fellow Arabs, only barely sparing Jordan in the process. Jordan, whose relations with Iraq have been consolidated during the first Gulf war, did not condone Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Kingdom, however, opposed and still opposes foreign intervention in Arab affairs and advocates a strong Arab front that would stand steadfast in front of challenges, whether internal or external. It is true that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led war have weakened the nation. But it is equally true that the behaviour of the Kuwaiti rulers, the absence of democracy in Iraq and the Gulf states and the abuse of human rights in the whole region were all responsible for the still continuing crisis. Despite all of these factors, Jordan can only stand for Iraq's unity, territorial integrity and independence while exhorting the Iraqi leadership to opt for pluralistic democracy and strive to reach a genuine national reconciliation.

What applies to Iraq, in terms of democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights, also applies to the other Arab peoples. Unless Arabs are freed from the shackles of oppression, ignorance and tyranny, our national rights will continue to be threatened and our people will continue to suffer. It is because of the absence of freedom and democracy and the lack of Arab solidarity that the enemies of the nation continue to encroach on its rights. But Jordan will not succumb and in its quest for peace will not compromise on Arab and Palestinian rights. And Jordan knows that whether in peace or war there is no alternative for the future except through democracy, pluralism and freedom. Other Arabs might want to continue to dwell in the past; we in Jordan are heading into the future, with foresight and confidence and a clear vision that the King has repeatedly articulated.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS not enough to hear Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announce that the Jewish state has chosen the path of peace and will not go back, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. What the Arabs want is concrete proof that Israel is working for peace and that can come only through the negotiations and through ending the repression against the Palestinian people, said the daily. We want Mr. Rabin to translate his words into deeds through acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, through flexibility at the negotiations where Israel must accept the idea of exchanging land for peace through stopping atrocities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, demanded the daily. The paper said that Israel is far off from such a path as it continues to adhere to the strategy of having peace and land together and as one can see Israeli atrocities being committed against the Palestinian people, added the daily. What the Arabs reject, the paper said, is separate deals; and what they want is a comprehensive settlement that can ensure peace and security for all. In light of the development at the negotiations in Washington and in view of the ongoing repressive acts in occupied Palestine, one can see that Israel is not inclined towards peace as Rabin has been claiming and that not a single step has been taken towards the attainment of peace, the paper said. It said that Mr. Rabin's words contradict his government's actions at the diplomatic level and on the ground, and shows clearly that Israel has chosen the path of violence, which it is escalating inside the occupied Arab lands.

The View from Fourth Circle

Lithuania, air conditioners and the Arab future

There are moments that societies, communities, and nations pass through that define a particular phase of historical change, and I suspect that we in Jordan are passing through precisely such a phase. It is useful to recognise the broader setting in which we live in order to comprehend the meaning of events that take place around us, or events of which we are a part.

The last four months in Jordan have been a period of swift developments, some of which have been rather contentious, and many of which have been upsetting to people. Among the developments I have in mind were the parliamentary hearings against former ministers charged with corruption, the parliament's court cases against several different people who criticised it or protested its actions, the government's arrest and trial of MPs and others in the Nafeer Al Islami case, and the government's spirited reminder to the press to refrain from commenting on court cases in progress or else risk the retribution of the law.

Contentious as they were, some of these developments also seem out of character for a small, moderate, rational country that is trying to offer the rest of the Middle East and the Arab World a working alternative to the autocracies, police states, anarchy, welfare states, and neo-protectionist and neo-mandates that define most of the region today. I say this because many aspects of some recent domestic events may reflect a sense of fear among many people, a fear that prompts people to act in haste or to adopt policies and tactics that they might not otherwise do.

Many Jordanians, other Arabs, and international friends and observers alike have noticed this recent trend, and many have been asking some basic questions: why did the government prosecute the Nafeer Al Islami case with witnesses and evidence whose quality and credibility were questioned by many Jordanians, to the point that some respected international journals called the conspiracy charges "dubious"? Why did the parliament react so fitfully in pressing charges against those who criticised it, such as Zeid Rifai, Iyad Qattan and protestors from Tafleeh, and then suddenly drop those charges? Why have the public and private media recently slipped back slightly into an Old World, ancient regime mode, preferring the ease of flag-waving to the hard work of tree-planting and water-harvesting?

The answers, I believe, are to be found in the broader context of the life of the people and the country. The average Jordanian over the age of 30, which means the entire political and corporate establishment, is suddenly faced with a world of rapid change. All the firm anchors that have defined Jordanian, Arab and global society for the last three or four generations are suddenly more effervescent, and slightly less firm. The comforting and familiar moorings that provided psychological ease, political consistency, and economic stability have all shifted, and continue to show signs of further movement in the future.

People and societies generally resist change, preferring the comforts of that which is known and that which is provided for them by others, to that which is changing and that which requires hard work in often uncharted territory. This change that we have been experiencing for the past four years has suddenly dawned on most people as being both significant and irreversible.

Many people, including myself, welcome the change, and see it as a constructive and hopeful sign of a society in the midst of renewal and perhaps even renaissance. I believe that the process of change is a sign of our strength as a community, and a sign of

faith in ourselves and our principles. Many others in Jordan, however, are fearful of change, especially when it is so all-encompassing. In Jordan's case, change means the following:

1. The entire economic basis of the country is in the midst of serious transformation. The underpinnings of our economy have all been challenged in recent years, including Arab and Western financial aid, the government's role as the primary employer and the main engine of development, and our access to traditional markets in the Gulf and Iraq. The future requires greater reliance on the private sector, a more austere government fiscal posture, and hard work to develop new markets in the region and around the world. It's easier to sit back and depend on the government to provide jobs, air conditioners and car phones, but this is no longer possible.

2. The regional political order is in the midst of historic change, challenged by a combination of home-grown Islamists, democrats, and adherents of pan-Arabist regionalism. The traditional political faith of Arabs working together to help one another has been badly fractured by the experience of the Gulf crisis and its aftermath, in which some Arabs have proved themselves more concerned about preserving their own privileged wealth in the short term than about assuring pan-Arab survival and dignity in the long term. Many of our myths and legends have been badly shaken, and have not yet been replaced by new ones.

3. The Arab-Israeli peace talks hold out the promise of substantial geo-political change in the future. The entire regional political map may be redrawn in the wake of a peace accord between the Arabs and Israel. This could remove the stigma of Israel as the single most important and consistent pole of Arab political anger during the last half a century. A gigantic political crutch is in the midst of disappearing, and new crutches have not come forth to replace it.

4. Domestic political power is slowly being diffused, away from the central control of the government and the state, towards a more participatory structure that sees power exercised by parliament, the press, special interest groups, and others in society who care to participate in the political decision-making system. Hopes, expectations, and opportunities for individuals, families, tribes, corporate interests and other traditional sub-national groups have all suddenly been forced to respond to new and very different rules.

5. The global order itself is changing rapidly, with serious implications for our traditional habit of managing regional political activity and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of a bipolar world. For a region whose modern configuration was the direct consequence of global power politics and post-imperial restructuring, and for power elites that flourished on the basis of such unchanging realities, the advent of a new global order is problematic, if not frightening to the point of frenzy.

6. In the important realm of thought, culture, creativity, and identity, traditional constraints are being removed, and individuals and groups are able today to express ideas and concepts that were not expressed in public before. These comprise things as diverse as political satire, the politicisation of religion, narrow and local nationalisms, and modernism and secularism in the arts.

This is, indeed, a very different world from that which had defined our society for the last several generations. The fundamental struggle now underway throughout the region, and

clearly mirrored inside Jordan, is the struggle between the would like to return to the old world and those who would venture into, and to construct, a more productive and new order. It is interesting to note that such fear of a new order, as we witnessed recently in the former Soviet Union, was the victory of the former communists in the post-elections in Lithuania earlier this month. Some people respond to the challenge of building a new and more democratic society by dreaming of returning to the simple ways of order.

The process of change is never easy, in the Middle Eastern Europe, especially for those who must come to terms with the reality of what change entails: working harder, an economy based on productivity and ingenuity, abiding rules of a meritocracy, earning and sharing political and economic power, being subjected to a process of checks and balances, achieving genuine security and stability on the basis of our common interests as Arabs within our logical political context.

In Jordan, the implications of change and continuing been well articulated by His Majesty King Hussein, personal role as the primary anchor of modern Jordanian statehood was well manifested in the reception he received his return home from his medical treatment in September, speech to the nation in early November, he emphasised importance of national principles, ideals and aspirations, destiny of individuals. This should prove to be an historical pivot in prompting greater focus on what we may achieve our goals as a society, as opposed to the modern tendency of many ordinary people to look out only for their self-interest.

Jordan is a small country that lacks economic, demographic, ideological, military, or political power on a regional scale most of the larger entities all around us. We can only live with our hard work, and our commitment to a community based on ideals that are deeply engrained in ourselves, whether as individuals or as a community. challenge, therefore, is two-fold: a.) we must offer an alternative model of viable statehood and humane community; b.) principles that blend the best of our Arab-Islamic tradition, the most appropriate international concepts of pluralism, democracy, human rights, participatory politics, and economic and social development, and c.) we must provide a model of self-confident and transformation towards those goals.

I believe both of those processes are well underway, future, it seems to me, will be impressive, if we remain these ideals, and reject the false security of reverting to distant glories, old dreams, or the frayed dependencies of the past. The future is already upon us, which is why, in occasional diversion, we continue to stand out as a rational and orderly change in a region otherwise characterised by fear, tension, repression, and the state that burns or disintegrates.

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King: Jordan remains committed to pursuit of peace and new Arab order based on liberty, democracy and respect for human rights

Following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's address yesterday at the Royal Staff and Command College.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fellow citizens, Graduating officers,

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and His blessings.

I greet you as comrades-in-arms, who never withheld a sacrifice, unwavering in carrying out your duty and steadfast in adversity. I greet you as the soldiers of a great message, to whose noble principles and goals you have pledged a commitment proportionate to the challenges and difficulties we have had to face. In equal measure, we have been determined to press on with the great journey begun by our grandfathers and our fathers. We have vowed to remain true to the message, to fight for it and to sacrifice all to sustain it.

"We must adhere to our word — when we agree not to use our Arab forces against other Arabs, we abide by our word and deed under any conditions. And if faced with a difficult situation, we would revert back to our nation."

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today, in this distinguished military academy known for its high standards, to share your joy in your success and graduation after having fulfilled its requirements. These entail a range and variety of disciplines, of which you have proved worthy. No doubt, the knowledge you have gained will serve to prepare you for your great responsibilities and will enable you to carry out your military duties, wherever you may be within our Jordanian Armed Forces, with

efficiency, ability and distinction.

I extend to you my warm and sincere congratulations on your success and excellent results, leading to graduation from this institution of which we are all truly proud. I extend a similar word of congratulations to your fellow graduates from sister and friendly states. We are both happy and proud to have them among our ranks and to see them graduate from one of our colleges, as others — both Arab and friendly nations — have done in the past, and from this particular college. We regard the enrollment of brethren and friends from abroad in our colleges and other institutions as a telling expression of the confidence they have in these institutions as well as a testimony to their distinction and high standards, achieved through the sincere and persistent efforts of those entrusted to run them.

Dear graduates, friends,

Our Arab Legion has remained an example of courage, sacrifice, discipline and commitment to the principles of the message and the revolt. They have personified their devotion from the brigades and battalions of the revolt, which fought oppression and tyranny in the Hijaz, at Aqaba, in Damascus and Aleppo. Out of these emerged the nucleus of the regular Arab Legion, which is guided by the message of the revolt, true to its cause, and to achieve its goals and aspirations. This nation's unity, its right to independence and freedom and to assume the status it deserves, having made a great contribution to human civilisation over the centuries.

Grounded in this vision, and true to the message of the revolt, this Arab Legion has made countless sacrifices and acts of heroism, which shall forever stand as medals of distinction for this country and as a record of glory attested to through history by the sacred blood of its martyrs in every corner of this land, which God has blessed and chosen as the venue of His divine messages. The great battles fought by this army, and its heroic deeds, shall always stand as beacons of light guiding the nation in times of danger and decision, reviving its hopes and fortifying its will. The tombstones and the graves of its martyrs are evident to the present day, in Bab Al Wad, Latrun, Al

Mokaber, by the walls of Jerusalem, in Hebron and on the Golan. They will always adorn the skies of our homeland as well as the foreheads of our valiant soldiers, sons of the beloved land.

On the day of Karama, as the earth was shaken to its utmost convulsion, and as the brave soldiers of this army leaned against the proud Balqa highlands proving more than equal to the task; on that day, Jordanians fought as one, in heart and mind, aided by God's will which enabled them to hold their ground with serenity and enlightened vision, inspired by God's words:

"But those who were convinced that they must meet Allah, said, how oft, by Allah's will, hath a small force vanquished a big one? Allah is with those who steadfastly persevere."

"Military honour requires the army to stand aloof from any political, ideological or factional struggle, because the army belongs to the whole country and nation, not to any faction, party, sect, or group."

On that day, the enemy's great numbers and massive armament did nothing but bolster our soldiers' determination and steadfastness. As the Almighty is my witness, they fought in the spirit of those to whom martyrdom, victory and life are dearly sought objectives. For their courage and fortitude, they have received from the Almighty their due recompense: as glorious martyrs content to join their creator, or as garlanded victors returning in pride and glory to their loved ones.

Fellow graduating officers,

The honour of military service requires us to be true to its message and sacred responsibility. Its message is to defend every grain of the homeland's sacred soil and achievements and to protect it from all danger, far or near. Military honour requires

the army to stand aloof from any political, ideological or factional struggle, because the army belongs to the whole country and nation, not to any faction, party, sect, or group. In our beloved Jordan, we take pride in the fact that this Arab army, imbued with the zeal of the Prophet, has always been loyal to the dictates of military honour, committed to its noble ideals, true to the message of the Great Arab Revolt, which has willed it to be an army for the entire nation, and ready to make sacrifices in defence of every part of the Arab lands, with all the strength and faith it enjoys. Over and above, the military proficiency of the Arab Legion has enabled it to represent Jordan and the Arab Nation, in fulfilling the universal and moral duty with international peace-keeping forces, with great efficiency and honour, in any part of the world.

Fellow citizens, Sons of our great Arab Legion,

Early this month, I spoke to my people, compatriots and fellow Arabs. I felt that the appeal I raised then would lift us out of the ashes of inaction into a burning light that would relieve the darkness of the long Arab night. Once again, from the platform of this beloved institution of our Jordanian Armed Forces, I reiterate my call to the nation in the hope that it would revive its renaissance, sharpen its will and record for history a chapter similar to that of our fathers and grandfathers, characterised by freedom, enlightened vision, knowledge, reason and human dignity.

Dear brethren,

Our world has recently witnessed momentous changes. Regimes have fallen, countries have been torn apart, nations have been embroiled in civil wars, famine has consumed young and old, and humanity has embarked on a violent and bloody phase whose culmination no one can now predict. Yet, it is not the end of the world, as some would have us believe. Nor does it herald, as some would claim, a virtuous human condition, for had it been so the world would have been spared the wars, poverty, famine, ignorance and disease we have seen. I hold that the political upheavals we are witnessing in the world around us, which

though in some of their manifestations seem to point against totalitarian rule, oppression, poverty and backwardness, are not, in their totality, omens of either good or evil. For the criterion of what is good or evil lies in whether or not change is geared towards right, freedom, justice and human rights everywhere. It is imperative, therefore, that we warn against a blind acceptance of the empty slogans which have marked international political change in some of its phases. We

"We want this country to be a steadfast Arab Islamic fort. We want it to remain green with the shrines of its martyrs. We want to have democratic institutions in the full sense of the word, to have a great army, to have schools which constantly revive themselves, and universities of distinction the world over. We want to have thinkers, reformers and creative individuals who would shape the country's radiant image and their nation's better tomorrow."

have to be wary of the claim that some can build a new world order, with a unipolar base and vision, because those who proclaim this new order tend to disregard that it is right in some places and wrong in others. There are some in the world who are dying of hunger, some who enjoy the warmth of peace while others are being drawn into disastrous civil wars. I need not cite specific

examples here, as the

what I say is there for all to see. In the midst of these and under the shadow drive for hegemony and of double standards, we have chosen to resume of an all embracing democracy — after heeded in disseminating cy at the educational an levels. Despite all the d and conspiracies we have met, we have always d and continue to deal issues before us in a compassion and forgive prevails within the one f this we have had recour of firm beliefs in which tical life is rooted. I among these is a strict a to the letter and spiri constitution; to all Arabism and to the message of Islam as a fa civilisation; to the ba freedom, justice and dignity as a beacon and life; and to protecting terests and independence of Jordan, as an ultimate. Within the frame principles, we perceive democracy as a model example as well as an choice for our people for there will be no turni Also, our respect for justice, human rights and dignity is a solid coin whose underpinnings thought, method and me are firmly rooted in ever our land.

Fellow Jordanians,

As I survey Jordan's meants in strengthening th actions of this new expa am happy to see enlighte and political force forward to bolster our n to support our democrac tions in a positive spiri passion and full aware prevailing conditions' velopments. I have obse continuing dialogue over ties and future prosp prominently in the debi and conclusions of the Commission of the N Charter, which was rat our people as a symbol social contract and conten prevails in this country various walks of life. other hand, I have re observed that certain for

(Continued on page 2)

'Jordan committed to quest for peace, new Arab order'

By Rami G.

(Continued from page 4)

country have held on to previous positions — of vision, narrowness of more productive powers, some of which are that such collapsed at the hands of the in the former, or architects, or have seen 91 in Russia is a symbol of disintegration, or communists in the established alliances with this month. Some who belittle the nation's ding a new and harbour greedy intent to the simple or have forged links — to extricate themselves — with the proponents of those who must be at those who from time to to and ingenuitly engage in attacks or incite sharing political. Some have even made ability on the basis of and cast aspersions at s within our have a monopoly of change and over our nation, our Majesty King and our people. In anchor of them — in order to the reception of the bases and ethics of treatment in the, as required by our November, be draw sustenance from the ideals and those who stand by right tude prove to do and face up to oppres- ter focus on what we do know s opposed to the how to distinguish between le to look out evil and realise full well attitude of decency re- lacks economic compassion, not weakness power on a regional stems from noble- and us. We can not apprehension, r commitment to be out-bidden by at are deeply or by those with ulterior als or as a one. Both in perception and humane our, we have sought no- our Arab-Islamic, but God's approval and al concepts of this country and nation, ary policies, and worthy of legitimacy and del of self-confi- s. ingrates who have no an incidental connec- sses are well as the nation's history. We impressive if as perfectly capable of facing security of waywardness and conspira- the framed if none of us survive on n which is and the like of those who ue to hand with Mohammed — God's in a region and salvation be upon repression, and to the mountain of Uhud.

ore I ask the three bran- government at this stage sure up to their responsi- with clarity of vision, confi- and precision, in order to t any weakness, lethargy nption from creeping into nks — within the spirit of onstitution and the law, serve to keep in check the rd, the seditious and those y a false claim to righteous- Those who harbour sick or ing dreams should look here for an interpretation, are living an age of free- this country. Let us join it thfulness, integrity and a sense of responsibility so ose who have misjudged us reconsider their positions gain seek the path of business. If they choose to what I say to the fold, the country and under to its bosom as drive for ages. Our total commitment to democratic and national char- of this noble homeland, I of our to affirm our determination and up to those elements ceeded in their seek to impair our coun- cy in the level. Desires and compari- must, as his- and issues with a comparison at prev- this we have called the bag free (I still know how I had the cour- do it; perhaps it was the ht that it contained my pas- travellers cheques and tick- to Amman that prompted ckless act). The boy looked apparently took me for where I was, I pushed it down again the seat as the boy turned to grab the headsets of the

U.N. plane

(Continued from page 1)

Project Chief of Medicines Frontiers, who was next to Her answer, if she did among those who was drowned in gunfire to the air- runway bandits left off re fierce salvo, presumably re off potential rivals com- wards, the plane from the message of trial. then, the bulk of the bag- Jigjiga was stowed in the back of the and I was about my flight bag up I got up and climbed of Jigjiga. I just in time to see one of my ways tucking it under his arm. dem- called the bag free (I still know how I had the cour- do it; perhaps it was the ht that it contained my pas- travellers cheques and tick- to Amman that prompted ckless act). The boy looked apparently took me for where I was, I pushed it down again the seat as the boy turned to grab the headsets of the

whose resolve has wavered, except for those of us who have held fast to the land hallowed by God in the vicinity of Al Aqsa. For when its people chose union, we agreed and proceeded to hold it in trust. And when they chose their independence, five years ago, and the independent decision and PLO representation before that, we blessed their choice. We announced the severance of ties, in accordance with their choice, which was supported by all the leaders of the Arab countries, without prejudice to brotherhood, loyalty or common sacrifice. We implored the Almighty to assist them in carrying out their historic mission. We gave them every necessary support and accepted the formula of a joint delegation to the peace negotiations as an umbrella enabling them to join the battle for peace.

As for our position on the peace negotiations, we joined the peace process seeking a comprehensive solution that would return, in full, Palestinian rights on their national soil and which would solve the problem in all its aspects for all parties concerned, in coordination with our Arab brethren. A peace that is not enforced by the existing balance of power, but rather endorsed and safeguarded by future generations. A peace that is based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. A peace that would not cause an Arab country to implement it in isolation of the other parties, until all parties have consulted to its conditions and principles based on international legitimacy. A solution that would return occupied Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. While the Almighty has willed the Holy City, where Al Hussein Bin Ali, martyr of Palestine and the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, rests in the vicinity of Al Aqsa Mosque, and where Abdullah Bin Al Hussein fell in martyrdom, to be the meeting place of all believers, who the Almighty described in the Holy Koran:

"The Messenger believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one of them, believeth in Allah, His angels, His books, and His messengers. We make no distinction, they say, between one and another of His messengers. And they say: 'We hear, and we obey: We seek Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys.'"

Therefore, peace must be attained in Jerusalem, the subject of the covenant of Omar. A peace that the Almighty would want for all of the faithful. These are our objectives and constants on the basis of which we joined the peace negotiations after a national congress had considered our choices and the way chosen. We shouldered the responsibility, for the present, and for the future of our people which

we hold in trust. We have joined the process under conditions of international and Arab collapse of which you are aware. Had we not been constrained by a sense of honour and decency, we could have spoken out about some of our Arab brethren, who were aiming their spears at fellow Arabs, blessing us by no more than a narrow margin. We have never budged from our positions, but perhaps our insistence on openness has caused those with ulterior motives to imagine that they could censure our silence, to which they have been accustomed to in the past. They distorted the facts, reversed events, wrote history as they perceive it, without regard to right and truth. Under no circumstances is this acceptable anymore. What then prompts some, in their spite, to outbid us? Could one consider the presenta-

"Let the activists, thinkers and pioneers of this good, honest, poor yet dignified nation come forward to uphold its message and put an end to division and disarray. Let us Arabs have a new Arab order, united Arab states, or one Arab state."

tion, after one year of negotiations, to the two negotiating governments, of the draft paper of headings, to be discussed, amended and then approved, to be a reason for all of these outbiddings and interferences? We have announced from the outset that these negotiations will be long and arduous. We would like to say to those, here and now, openly and firmly, that we shall not permit any solutions at the expense of this people or this land, that we are not an alternative homeland for any and that we will not waver with respect to any of our rights, no matter how small in the eyes of others. As for Iraq, it has always shouldered, and will continue, God willing, to shoulder its historic and humane role. The civilisation, with its cultural and scientific progress which proudly started from Babel, Baghdad and Basra withstood all challenges and adversity. Iraq is a brother as well as a dimension of depth for us. We stood by it when we were surprised by the outbreak of war at the Arab World's eastern border, and lasted for eight lengthy years. Our support was to partial-

ly reciprocate the love and affection its people and army have long afforded to us. Iraq was always ahead in supporting Jordan and the nation in all the battles we had to fight together where the lands of Jordan and Palestine embraced the shrines of its martyrs and heroes. Our support was prompted by concern for the preservation of Iraq's strength, achievements and culture and also by a desire not to permit any non-Arab power to interfere in the affairs of our Arab Nation. We stood by Iraq also because it was an Arab power. We carried in our hearts a deep concern for the plight of its people in all its factions. We affirmed then, and do now, our commitment to the unity of Iraq and independence of its people, and also to the principle that any issue related to Iraq must be subject to the will of its own people. We only wished for Iraq what we wished for ourselves and the Arab people, wherever they may be. What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it to overcome all obstacles. We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability, establish trust among brethren, and achieve complementarity. We must adhere to our word — when we agree not to use our Arab forces against other Arabs, we abide by our word and deed under any conditions. And if faced with a difficult situation, we would revert back to our nation, taking into consideration that we are part and parcel of this one nation, and that none of us should, under any circumstances deviate from the general consensus with disregard to the consequences to its people and nation. Arab issues should be dealt with by the Arab Nation. The Arab national interest is above all considerations. The people of Iraq have truly stood steadfast and endured to a degree far beyond human tolerance. Their sufferings have weighed upon us. May the Almighty help the people of Iraq as the whole nation has suffered recently.

Within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council, we attempted to close a chapter of disunity and open the way for cooperation, in the interest of our nation. We also publicly suggested the creation of an Arab military corps so that it becomes a nucleus for an able pan-Arab force. During our presidency of the Arab Cooperation Council, in its second year, the crisis took us by surprise. Then came the Gulf war, which revealed certain aspects pertaining to our Arab Nation of which you are well aware, despite our well-known attempts to settle Arab border disputes through dialogue among the Arabs themselves. In any case, we are surprised that such border disputes should ever exist among brethren. We have been

firm advocates of the view that such disputes should be settled within the Arab framework; indeed we are advocates of doing away with borders among the Arab states. Otherwise, what meaning is there to the concept of unity and where are its champions and proponents? How could Europe unite in an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and mutual respect, whilst we stand by without attempting to achieve something similar. We have wondered how people can change their colours over a short period of time and move away from extreme national commitment in the direction of a regional, or even, tribal identity which I am tempted to call the identity of the age of ignorance or jahiliyya. Things have got to the point where we have seen Arabs tyrannically evict fellow Arabs from their countries and rob them of their rights and dignity, although they had spent their entire lives in their service, and all of this without regard to conscience, compassion or a sense of good neighbourliness. Is it not our obligation to reemphasise the value of the Arab individual and his right of security in his faith, honour and welfare? Should not he enjoy a free and an honourable life so that he can live within his Arab Nation, proud of fealty to his faith and people?

Brethren,

In this country we are one family regardless of origin or place of birth. We have always stood by the unity of our nation, in heart and spirit. We have never tried to plant factions or groups here or there in the Arab World. We find it strange that some have sought to exploit the tolerant democratic climate in our country by planting certain groups within the political forces of our people. Some have even made a complete about-face — from looking West towards Palestine to rummaging in our midst. Some have lost the distinction between democracy and totalitarianism, while others have stumbled and lost their vision. We shall never accept shortsightedness, ideological collapse or the inherited tendency towards oppression by some to cast a shadow on our own progress. Nor shall we permit interference by others in our affairs under any guise or pretext, whether it be in the name of concern for the nation or Palestine or justice or man. For we are ourselves the champions of all these causes and the keepers and trustees of the message. We are not strangers to the history of this nation or to the record of its martyrs nor are we incidental to its cause.

When we look at our national concerns, we must keep in mind that the present phase is replete with challenge, that our region is not marked by justice or security and that the world is rife with

policies aiming at hegemony and breeding fanaticism and extremism — all of which seem to retard the cause of peace and development. This being the case, we should take a comprehensive view of our aspirations, resources, capabilities and scope of action, in the areas of education, construction, agriculture and industry, in order to find solutions to the problems of poverty and unemployment as well as to secure justice and remove class distinctions. At the same time, legislators and planners should never lose sight of the fact that we ought to work as one team within the framework of a comprehensive vision and a profound understanding of our country's needs, security and progress.

Dear brethren,

Attempts at achieving a true renaissance and union have failed in the past because they had no proper foundations. They lacked the element of self-criticism, suffered from short sightedness and were not based on right, freedom, equality, or justice. They failed also because many of them took the form of grandiose or showcase projects. They have failed to solve accumulative problems of social backwardness, illiteracy, low standards of living, the chasm between the elite and the people, cultural crisis, extremism, tribalism, sectarianism and dependence on others.

Above all was the absence of guarantees ensuring freedom, dignity and means of livelihood. Can we then aspire to rejuvenate ourselves and recreate a national fabric in the spirit of free liberty, commitment to our Arab heritage and adherence to the message? Will we succeed in redeeming the pride of Arab blood shed on the shores and the gallows, on the plains and in the valleys? The Arab revolt must join the fray at this juncture and interact with the spirit of the age and its burgeoning drive to create a human order different from that advanced by its present advocates. It is imperative that there be a connection with our roots but also an openness to life and a release from despair. We should look for a time when the South would cease to be a supplicant to the North, when the interests of any single faction, race or sect would cease to prevail. We should seek an order with a humane and ethical dimension which responds to past, present and future aspirations. We should look for an order imbued with a purity of spirit and the spotlessness of true revolutionaries, an order far removed from the stains of oil, consumerism and tyranny, an order characterised by a raging commitment to what is right, an order through which we can alleviate hunger, quench the thirst for freedom and aid the oppressed. Let the activists,

thinkers and pioneers of this good, honest, poor yet dignified nation come forward to uphold its message and put an end to division and disarray. Let us Arabs have a new Arab order, united Arab states, or one Arab state. Let us rise to the defence of its frontiers, not of the colonial lines drawn within it. We shall strive, for all of this, overlooking those Arabs who are motivated by tribal affiliation or a high-handed mentality. After they had flooded the nation with their oil and were elated when their thrones were given back to them by the foreigner who slaughtered their brethren, they were led by arrogance to crime and believe that they are the be-all and end-all. They expect others to come to them in obedience, proclaiming their fealty in praise and gratitude.

Fellow graduating officers,

members of our valiant armed forces,

With God's grace, you have always been in the vanguard — protecting national security in this part of the greater Arab homeland. So I extend to you my congratulations on your success. Let your souls be ever ready and God willing, let your vigilance be eternal.

May God bless you and reward you amply for your services to your compatriots and your nation. Let right shine at your hands as you rise up to the defence of your homeland. May God also bless your other comrades-in-arms, who have forsaken the warmth of their homes and left for distant places in all parts of the world to engage in peace, keeping efforts and restore stability to countries and peoples embroiled in war and unrest. In fulfilling this human duty they also serve to reflect the image of our great country, marked by grace, nobility and sacrifice. We want this country to be a steadfast Arab Islamic fort. We want it to remain green with the shrines of its martyrs. We want to have democratic institutions in the full sense of the word, to have a great army, to have schools which constantly revive themselves, and universities of distinction the world over. We want to have thinkers, reformers and creative individuals who would shape the country's radiant image and their nation's better tomorrow.

Go with God's blessing, and seek guidance in the words of his Holy Book:

"If any do seek for glory and power — to Allah belong all glory and power. To Him mount up all words of purity: It is He who excels each deed of righteousness. Those that lay plots of evil — for them is a penalty terrible: and the plotting of such will be void (of result)."

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessing.

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Seles overcomes Navratilova to win 3rd consecutive Virginia Slims title

NEW YORK (Agencies) — It was a scary sight for other players on the women's tennis tour: Monica Seles at the net, executing perfectly a diving backhand volley.

Seles pounded out a 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Martina Navratilova Sunday to capture her third consecutive Virginia Slims Championships title and put a forceful stamp on her standing as the world's No. 1 player.

"I think today is probably as well as I've played, and I got beat in straight sets on top of that," Navratilova said. "I played pretty well and she played great."

Seles dominated with pure power. "It is amazing to me that she can hit the ball that hard that close to the line consistently," Navratilova said when the one-hour, 36-minute match was over. "There were very few balls she missed and a whole lot of them that she makes."

Navratilova once dominated women's tennis herself. In 1983, she lost just three matches in the entire year, something not even Seles has done. And Navratilova still is ranked in the top five in the world.

Even at age 35, Navratilova is a force on the women's tour, constantly putting pressure on opponents by going to the net at every opportunity. Against Seles, it was a different story. She waited until the right time to leave the sanctuary of the baseline.

"You can't just come in on a prayer" against Seles, Navratilova said. "Unless you come in on a really good shot, you get burned."

In the opening game, Seles kept Navratilova pinned to the baseline, dictating the point. Navratilova was able to work her way to the net only once, and she



Martina Navratilova

won that point with a strong forehand volley into the corner.

On her own serve, Navratilova was forced to stay back if she didn't get her first serve in, so heavy were Seles' returns.

"It was pretty close for a while," Navratilova said. "In the last two sets I got run over by a mack truck."

After Seles punctuated a hard-fought, lengthy point with a perfectly placed smash from the baseline, Navratilova smilingly placed her racket on the court and bowed to the new ruler of women's tennis.

Her tears came later, not because of the loss but because of the warm ovation she received from



Monica Seles has reason to be ecstatic. This year she reached 14 finals in 15 tournaments and won 10 titles

the record single-session crowd of 18,257. They were cheering not only Sunday's performance, but her stellar career.

"When you give Monica a little opening, she just takes it," Navratilova said. "She hit the great shots when she had to and I didn't when I needed to."

"You get one chance to beat Monica. You don't get two."

With the victory in the season-ending, 16-player tournament, Seles picked up a check for \$750,000. Two-thirds of that, \$500,000, came from her winning the year-long Kraft Tour point standings.

Martina Navratilova smiled through her tears Sunday as she announced that next season could likely be her last playing singles.

"I do think my time has come," Navratilova told a Madison Square Garden crowd after losing to Monica Seles in the final of the Virginia Slims Championships.

"I don't want to make it a farewell tour or anything like that, but I do want to give the fans a chance to come out and see me."

Navratilova, 36, brushed aside tears as the crowd of more than 16,000 presented her with an extended standing ovation for her effort in the final match of the 1992 tour.

Atletico Madrid dethrone Deportivo La Coruna

MADRID (Agencies) — Atletico Madrid defender Juanito Rodriguez scored two goals Sunday to lead the 2-1 dethronement of Deportivo La Coruna, ending the cinderella team's reign over Spanish soccer's First Division.

No. 4 Atletico's win handed the league lead to Barcelona, which thrashed Zaragoza 6-1 in the 11th round of play. Real Madrid remained in second place after a 1-1 draw with Cadiz.

Deportivo, which fell to No. 3, had been the division leader since the second round of the season — its first glimpse of the top spot in the club's 88-year history.

In other games Sunday, Sevilla beat Celta 2-1; Rayo Vallecano beat Osasuna 1-0; Oviedo drew 2-2 with Real Sociedad; Espanol drew 0-0 with Tenerife; Athletic Bilbao drew 1-1 with Burgos; Logrones lost 2-1 to Sporting de Gijon; and Valencia beat Albacete 2-0.

Atletico led off the scoring in minute 26 on a direct free kick from just inside the Deportivo penalty area.

Brazilian defender Donato Gama da Silva rolled the ball back under his foot, positioning it for his teammate.

Juanito then drove a grounder past the barrier and just to the right of Goalie Jesus "Yosu" Anuzita Alegria.

Juanito scored his second of the night in minute 49 on a corner kick when Yosu ranged out into the penalty area. Juanito got to the ball first and headed it into the goal.

Blackburn Rovers squandered a chance of moving into second place in the English Premier League soccer standings Sunday when Kenny Dalglish's team was held to a 1-1 draw at lowly Southampton.

Rovers leapfrogged past third place Aston Villa on goal difference but still is a point behind second place Arsenal and five behind leader Norwich.

The point gained by Southampton moved the saints up one place in the standings, five away from last.

Matthew Le Tissier fired the home team ahead in the 22nd minute. Iain Dowie headed on a long clearance from the defense and Le Tissier had only Goalie Bobby Mimms to beat.

Seven minutes before half-time Blackburn leveled when Irish international defender Kevin Moran climbed above Dowie and headed the ball in from a free kick.

Blackburn sent on U.S. international striker Roy Wegerle as a substitute 20 minutes from the end. Wegerle, who played in the United States' 1-0 defeat in Monaco Friday, came close to snatching the winner but shot across the face of the Southampton goal.

Blackburn's eighth goal of the season, putting him in second place in the scoring race behind Barcelona's Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, who has 12.

In Vigo, Argentine superstar Diego Maradona scored on a free kick — his first non-penalty goal since he returned to soccer this fall — to lead Sevilla to a 2-1 victory over host Celta.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon today in Sagittarius could provide you with new information to apply to projects at hand that will improve your career by making good use of reputation and good credit. Make the most of these good aspects.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A fine day for us wish to do that is of a worldly nature so be while tonight finds it is you to use self-control.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert to a revised course of action bring your potential progress in the future and if worry over what you can do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Send out whatever communications or reports you have agreed to do or that await your attention and sidestep a confrontation with an associate in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get assistance from most anyone you wish during the day that has to do with practical matters. Tonight avoid a dispute with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your day to go after what you want with confidence and character and you should get it but tonight sidestep an argument at your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day when you are able to get private assistance from whomsoever can be helpful to you in confidence; later do visit a usually pleasant person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be with good friends today who are very loyal to them to understand while in the evening from a spendthrift.

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LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day when you are able to get private assistance from whomsoever can be helpful to you in confidence; later do visit a usually pleasant person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be with good friends today who are very loyal to them to understand while in the evening from a spendthrift.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A fine day for us wish to do that is of a worldly nature so be while tonight finds it is you to use self-control.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert to a revised course of action bring your potential progress in the future and if worry over what you can do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Send out whatever communications or reports you have agreed to do or that await your attention and sidestep a confrontation with an associate in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get assistance from most anyone you wish during the day that has to do with practical matters. Tonight avoid a dispute with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your day to go after what you want with confidence and character and you should get it but tonight sidestep an argument at your home.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Arazi retired from racing

LONDON (AP) — Arazi, once considered a superhorse, is being retired after a succession of disappointing results this year. The French-trained three-year-old will stand at the Dalham Hall Stud at Newmarket, England for a \$30,000 stud fee. Anthony Stroud, racing manager for the colt's co-owner Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum of Dubai, confirmed the retirement Monday. Arazi, a Kentucky-bred son of Blushing Groom, won six of its first seven races in France in 1991, then took the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in Churchill Downs to be hailed Europe's best-ever 2-year-old.

Krabbe to use legal loophole to fight ban

BONN (R) — Katrin Krabbe, who avoided a doping ban in June because German athletics chiefs had no legal right to ban athletes for taking drugs, plans to use the loophole again to fight her present four-year suspension. The sprinter's lawyer Peter Woessner said Monday the German Athletics Federation (DLV), who confirmed the suspension at a meeting Friday, had failed to make its statutes legally watertight by including out-of-competition dope-testing procedures. The technicality helped 100 and 200 metres world champion Krabbe and fellow former East Germans Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller to side-step a four-year ban in June for manipulating urine samples. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) considers clenbuterol an anabolic agent, carrying the same ban of four years for first offenders as anabolic steroids. "The ban must be reduced to something less than four years," Woessner said.

Yachtsmen set sail on round-the-world race

LES SABLES D'Olonne, France (R) — Fourteen yachtsmen set sail Sunday from the western French port of Les Sables d'Olonne at the start of the single-handed, round-the-world globe challenge race. The race, in which the yachtsmen are not allowed to stop or receive outside help, is expected to finish in the same port in March after a 25,000-mile circumnavigation of the globe. Eight Frenchmen and one yachtsman each from Britain, Hungary, Italy, Monaco, Spain and Switzerland, watched by an estimated crowd of 200,000, set sail as the race was overshadowed by the failure of American Mike Plant to arrive in France after setting sail from New York last month. The 41-year-old American, who took part in the first globe challenge event three years ago, is missing feared dead.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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TURNING DIAMONDS INTO DUST

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
A 7 5
K 10 5
K Q 2
A Q J 9 6

WEST
Q 10 8 3 2
8 7 4 2
9
7 5 3

EAST
K J 9 6 3
A 10 8 6
K 2

SOUTH
K 6 4
A Q
J 7 5 4 3
10 8 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1 Pass 2 Dbl
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

Vntai Tinkov, the Russian emigre noted for fast and frequently inaccurate play, had stayed away from the club for awhile. It seemed the fates were conspiring against him, but some club members had a smacking suspicion that many of his woes were self-inflicted. They cited this hand as an example.

Vntai showed a nice appreciation of the worth of the South hand

who he jumped to three on trump over North's takeout double of two hearts. The heart tenace behind opener and the fifth diamond made a game a fair proposition.

West led a heart, and East's discovery play of the nine lost to the queen. Since four diamond tricks would see the contract home, declarer led a low diamond to the queen in a flash. East won, forced out the remaining heart stopper and, when diamonds failed to break, declarer was forced to rely on the club finesse for the fulfilling trick — down one.

Without the ace of diamonds East could not have an opening bid in first seat, and declarer should have taken advantage of that. At trick two declarer should have crossed to dummy with the ace of spades and led a low diamond toward the jack. Should East rise with the ace of diamonds, declarer has nine tricks — two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and the ace of clubs. However, playing a low diamond is no better. When the jack of diamonds wins, South abandons the suit and plays on clubs, coming to nine tricks via four clubs, one diamond and four tricks in the majors.

Becker feels like the No. 1 again

FRANKFURT (R) — Boris Becker, winner of the ATP World Tennis Championship Sunday, believes it is merely a matter of time before he regains the world's top ranking.

"I feel like I am the number one," said Becker, who crushed the world number one Jim Courier 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

"I don't know if I've ever played that well," added Becker. "I have beaten almost all the top guys in the world in the past weeks and that means a lot."

Manager Ion Tiriac had no doubts that the Becker of old was back in Frankfurt. "When Boris works hard, it's just a formality for him to be number one," he said.

That much was evident from the booming serves and volleys that have been Becker's trademark for years.

But he offered much more than just heavy artillery, hitting, blistering returns and groundstrokes at will.

"When he plays like that, he just rips the ball and there's not much you can do," said Courier.

Becker, who celebrated his 25th birthday Sunday, finished the year at number five thanks to his win. His rivals know he will be back for more next year.

"I want to play until I'm 30," he declared. "My career is far from being over. I'd like to win another couple of Grand Slams. It sounds better when you say that you won Wimbledon five times rather than just three."

Asked when he planned to recapture the number one spot, Becker was direct: "Just ask the other players when they are going to let me."

It was all a far cry from the miserable Becker the tennis world had seen earlier in the season.

Poor concentration and a string of injuries meant he failed to reach a Grand Slam final for the first time since 1987, dropping to 10th in the ATP rankings, his lowest since 1985.

Becker missed the French Open with a leg injury and struggled to reach the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, his favourite tournament which he has won three

times.

At one point the German had grown so disillusioned with the sport that he came close to quitting but he began his comeback by winning the Paris Open this month.

In Paris, he beat John McEnroe, Courier, Goran Ivanisevic and Frenchman Guy Forget, all with breathtaking shots and astonishing ease.

Courier to miss Grand Slam Cup

Jim Courier, who ended the year that propelled him to the top of the tennis world on a losing note, is shunning the forthcoming \$2-million Grand Slam Cup for a much-needed rest.

After being beaten by Boris Becker in the ATP World Championship final, Courier said: "The consolation prize is my year on the circuit is over. I definitely can do with a rest."

Courier, who becomes the first American to finish the year as world number one since John

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	SINGAPORE CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.5130	1.5110
Deutsche Mark	1.6035	1.6095
Swiss Franc	1.4405	1.4550
French Franc	5.2275	5.2350**
Japanese Yen	124.35	124.60
European Currency Unit	1.7210**	1.7207**

EUROPEAN OPENING AT 8.00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.75	5.81	4.05
Sterling Pound	7.75	7.12	7.81	5.37
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.65	8.31	7.66
Swiss Franc	9.00	9.37	9.12	8.93
French Franc	9.70	9.44	9.37	8.75
Japanese Yen	3.75	3.73	3.05	3.02
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.05	9.67	9.00

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 23/11/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0402	1.0454
Deutsche Mark	0.4271	0.4288
Swiss Franc	0.4747	0.4771
French Franc	0.1288	0.1274
Japanese Yen	0.5549	0.5577
Dutch Guilder	0.3792	0.3811
Swedish Krona	0.1020	0.1025
Italian Lira	0.0497	0.0499
Belgian Franc	0.02072	0.02082

Other Currencies
Date: 23/11/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8050	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	0.0335	0.0365
Saudi Riyal	0.1335	0.1345
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3900	2.5000
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
UAE Dirham	1.7600	1.7720
Omani Riyal	0.1867	0.1878
Greek Drachma	0.3335	0.3485
Cypriot Pound	1.4330	1.4440

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market
November 21, 1992 = 100

Index	21/11/92 Close	22/11/92 Close
All-Share	160.01	160.07
Banking Sector	118.50	118.35
Insurance Sector	176.34	176.60
Industry Sector	214.03	214.37
Services Sector	226.67	226.89

Iceland devalues crown by 6%

REYKJAVIK (R) — Iceland's Prime Minister David Oddsson announced Monday a six per cent devaluation of the Icelandic crown, bowing to demands by his country's ailing fishing industry.

Mr. Oddsson told Reuters after government meetings that began Saturday and lasted until Monday morning that the devaluation was part of a package of economic measures.

The devaluation was decided during negotiations between the government, labour unions and employers.

The aim of the talks was to work out a package to reduce unemployment, which is nearing three per cent but was unknown in Iceland for decades.

Iceland has for more than three years kept the crown steady against a basket of currencies, that consists overwhelmingly of the European Currency Unit (ECU), plus the yen and the dollar.

This has contributed to a drastic lowering of inflation, which averaged 34 per cent between 1970 and 1990. Earlier this year it was forecast to stay at two per cent in 1992.

Iceland avoided devaluation during the September currency crisis in Europe and before the weekend government ministers vowed to maintain currency stability.

Indian group studying chemical units in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — The Indian industrial conglomerate U.B. Group is considering establishing two petrochemical plants in Bahrain, the local Gulf Daily News has reported.

The paper quoted group chairman Vijay Malviya as saying he would send a team to Bahrain soon to study the feasibility of establishing an MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) plant and a phosphoric acid plant, and that Bahrain would be an ideal site.

Interviewed during a visit to the Gulf island state, he said he had received a very positive response during initial talks with officials in Bahrain.

MTBE is used as an additive to raise the octane rating in petrol and to make it burn cleaner, but it can also be used in other industries.

Group member U.B. Elastomers Ltd., was importing MTBE into India for use in making buy 1 rubber and this would provide a direct source of supply, he said.

He gave no details on projected volumes or costs.

Trickle-down economics hurt rural poor in Third World

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The number of rural poor in developing countries has jumped 40 per cent over the past 20 years, an indication that many international aid programmes have failed, says a new study released Monday.

A report on rural poverty in 114 nations with a sizeable rural landholding population maintains that the trickle-down theory of economics and attitudes towards the poor prevent them from being properly integrated into a country's economic structure.

The report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a Rome-based U.N. agency, said most development programmes are too heavy on capital investment and measure results only by a country's gross national product, which obscures reasons for lack of growth.

"Development is not something that happens in spite of the poor. It is something that happens because of them," it added.

"The crucial point is that ... societies will not need massive infusions of foreign aid as farmers will generate their own savings and invest them in local production," the report said.

The report said the rural poor were poor because they had been prevented from utilising the same resources available to others in the nation — land, credit infrastructure, technology and social services.

Of the four billion people in 114 developing nations surveyed, more than half live in rural areas and a billion or 36 per cent are below the poverty line, an increase of 40 per cent over 20 years ago. About 15-20 million people die each year from starvation or malnutrition-related diseases.

The sharpest increase in rural poor over the past 20 years occurred in Sri Lanka, Zambia, Mali, Brazil and Kenya.

According to an index relating food production, consumption, income distribution, access to education and health services, the worst-off rural poor are in Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mauritania and the Sudan.

The five states at the top of the list were Cyprus, Malta, South Korea, Barbados and Mauritius.

Iraq relents on list of banned imports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, allaying some of the fears of its hard-pressed traders, has removed more items from its shrinking list of banned imports and scrapped a new deadline for certain foreign goods to be cleared from shop shelves.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said the trade ministry decided to add "new articles to the list of goods permitted to enter the country and sanctioned internal trade in certain banned items beyond the new extended deadline."

Spices, lemons, electric irons and driers, alarm bells, industrial silk and packed coffee, banned under previous instructions are now permitted.

Oslo, Dublin and Madrid hike interest rates to defend currencies

OSLO (R) — Norway's central bank, trying to stem pressure for a devaluation, has raised its key lending rate to 25 per cent from 17 per cent from Monday.

"We stand by our policy of fixed exchange rates," central bank spokesman Knut Tønsberg said Sunday night.

The overnight lending rate is being raised to 25 per cent from 17 per cent.

The central bank last raised the rate on Friday, to 17 per cent from 10 per cent, after neighbouring Sweden allowed its crown to float freely against the European Currency Unit (ECU), triggering speculation that Norway would be forced to follow suit and devalue.

At 25 per cent, the Norwegian rate is the highest since 1986, when the central bank briefly raised it to 50 per cent before Norway last devalued the crown.

The overnight lending rate is charged to commercial and savings banks and is a benchmark for rates throughout the economy.

Norway pegged its crown to the ECU in October 1990.

Since Sweden let its crown float freely on Thursday in an effective devaluation, Norwegian media have said the Norwegian central bank has bought tens of billions of crowns (billions of dollars) on the foreign exchange markets to defend its currency.

Sweden is a major trading partner of Norway. Both are outside the European Community.

Norway says its economy, underpinned by North Sea oil wealth, is strong. But many Norwegian businesses suffer from a loss of competitiveness after an effective Swedish devaluation.

Ireland Monday dramatically lifted money market rates to stave off an embarrassing devaluation of the punt on the eve of a general election.

The Irish central bank raised rates to 30 per cent to shore up the punt after weekend devaluation of the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

The bank, determined to stave off a "black Monday" attack by currency speculators, suspended its normal short-term facility rate of 13.75 per cent at which it was lending to commercial banks.

"This move this morning is designed to squeeze the system to make it expensive to acquire funds to sell the Irish pound. It has to be a short-term measure," Allied Irish Banks economist John Beggs said.

Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, trailing badly in opinion polls, has staked his reputation on maintaining the punt's parity against the powerful German mark.

A devaluation would be a political disaster for his Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) Party which polls show has virtually no chance of forming a majority government in Wednesday's election.

Dealers said that currency trading was surprisingly quiet when the foreign exchange markets opened.

"It has been very stable against the mark at around 2.6260," said Dan McLaughlin, chief economist at Riada Stockbrokers. "So far we seem to be bailing in there," he added.

The central bank spent a third of its foreign reserves supporting the punt in the last major European currency upheaval in September and also used exchange controls to squeeze currency speculators.

The punt has soared by almost 20 per cent in value against sterling, a major problem for Irish firms who send one third of their exports to Britain.

The Dublin government, arguing that the fundamentals of the Irish economy are strong with low inflation and a solid balance of trade surplus, have consistently ruled out devaluation as an option.

"The timing is unfortunate given the election and they may just be holding off a devaluation until it is out of the way," said Ruth Lea, chief economist at the Mitsubishi Bank in London.

In Dublin, opposition senator Shane Ross argued: "For the sake of mortgage holders, exporters, employees in danger of losing their jobs and the whole national economy, the sooner we bite the bullet the better."

But Finance Minister Bertie Ahern said he was "well pleased" with the result of the marathon weekend meeting of EC monetary officials and said: "A currency change is not the appropriate way to tackle our present problems."

Spain raised its key interest rate by three-quarters of a point Monday to bolster the peseta after a six per cent weekend devaluation and said it would lift unpopular foreign exchange controls.

The Spanish currency opened slightly higher against the mark but slipped back later in nervous trading as its sought its new level in the European Community Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

"What we've seen is a pre-emptive move by the Bank of Spain to keep the peseta from slipping too far," said Jaime de Pinies, chief economist at Banco Santander de Negocios.

The devaluation, accompanied by a commitment from Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga to cut the public deficit, moderate wage rises and speed labour reforms, met universal criticism from unions and opposition parties.

"More than the peseta, it's the economic policy of the government that has been devalued," said Luis Gamir, economic spokesman of the centre-right Popular Party.

The General Workers Union and the Workers Commissions demanded a change in policies, saying devaluation was the reflection of an economy without any industrial backbone.

Unions are furious over government plans, under pressure from the EC Commission, to close loss-making steel plants and coal mines. They plan protests Tuesday here and in Brussels against proposals to shut blast furnaces in northern Spain.

The Bank of Spain raised its key money market rate to 13.75 per cent from 13 per cent and abolished, from Tuesday, penalties on speculative foreign exchange operations that were introduced in September.

The authorities had brought in the controls then as the lesser of two evils — the other being to leave the ERM — but they led to about \$5 billion of foreign capital flowing out of government bonds in three weeks.

Government bond market traders welcomed the awaited decision to devalue as clearing the air, but were unhappy with the interest rate rise.

"The market was not expecting the interest rate rise and hopes the rate can come back down to around 13 per cent by the year-end," said Alejandro Saez, Spanish bond dealer at Tokai International in London.

Traders are still banned from importing carpets and rugs but under the new rules are no longer bound to clear existing stocks from their shops and warehouses by Dec. 10, a deadline only set a few days ago.

The latest relaxation follows an article in Babel, a newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, criticising government measures to restrict trade in foreign goods.

On Friday, Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told Reuters the ban on foreign goods was limited to 146 commodities out of an original banned list of 687 commodities. Traders had been given until Nov. 20 to clear old stocks of banned goods.

Jumhuriyah said articles still not permitted to enter the country "are marginal luxury commodities which only the rich can afford to buy."

"They (the banned items) constitute only 22 per cent of the total number of foreign commodities allowed to be imported in the future," it said.

Iraq, which earlier this year executed 42 traders it accused of profiteering, has been under a U.N. trade embargo since soon after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Gulf Arab states to buy medicines in joint tenders

DUBAI (R) — Six oil-rich Gulf Arab states have agreed to buy medicines in joint tenders every two years, a Gulf daily reported Monday.

The Abu Dhabi-based Al-Itihad newspaper quoted officials as saying Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) experts agreed on the new policy during a meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday.

GCC members — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait — have a population of about 17 million, including many expatriates from the Indian sub-continent, other Arab states and Western countries.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One sterling	1.5100/10	1.2858/63
One U.S. dollar	1.6050/60	1.8050/100
	1.4520/30	33.0408
	5.4480/530	1388/1392
	124.20/25	6.7000/9000
	6.4500/6500	6.1500/3000
One ounce of gold	\$334.10/334.60	

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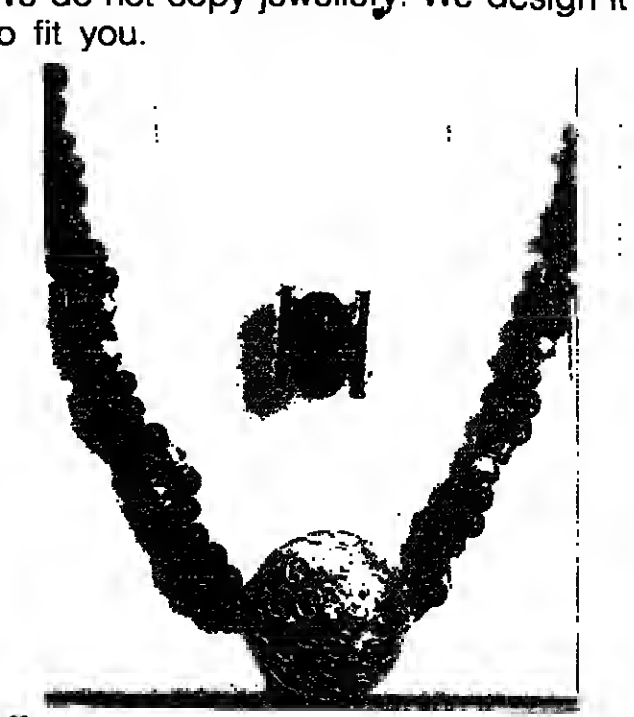
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Fighting continues in Bosnia as allies halt 2 ships in adriatic

SARAJEVO (R) — Fighting was reported in besieged Sarajevo Monday after the worst day in the capital since a ceasefire, virtually ignored, went into force 12 days ago.

The latest outbreak of fighting in the capital and elsewhere in Bosnia came a day after the West launched a full-scale naval blockade against Yugoslavia to try to bring the civil war to an end.

The commander of U.N. peace troops in Sarajevo, General Philippe Morillon, said Sunday he believed all combatants in the war — Muslims, Croats and Serbs — sincerely wanted peace.

As the Bosnian capital awoke Monday under a blanket of fog, heavy artillery could be heard in the west of the city, as well as heavy machinegun and sniper fire.

Police reported sporadic machinegun fire in the old town, the city centre, New Sarajevo and the Dobrinja suburb throughout the night.

A single mortar round into the city centre early Monday morning injured two civilians.

Elsewhere in the war-ravaged country Bosnia Radio reported fighting in Gradacac and Tesanj in the north and Olovo and Knjic in the centre, all under attack from Serb forces.

On Sunday Sarajevo, under siege for seven months, suffered its heaviest shelling and fighting since the ceasefire was signed by military leaders of the warring sides.

The city's hospitals reported one person killed and up to 32 wounded, including several peo-

ple hit by sniper fire and a child injured by shrapnel in his home in the old town west of the city centre.

The heaviest fighting Sunday was in the northern Bosnian town of Gradacac, the last Muslim-held stronghold blocking the Serbs from forging a corridor across the country between Serb-held lands in Croatia and Serbia proper.

Bosnian Radio said Gradacac and surrounding villages were under heavy artillery, tank and infantry attack and the Serbs were bringing in reinforcements by truck and helicopter.

The radio, quoting intelligence sources, said the Serbs had installed surface-to-surface missiles directed against Gradacac.

Bosnia's president Alija Izetbegovic has complained to the U.N. that the Serbs are deploying missiles left over by the Yugoslav federal army to get round a U.N. ban on using warplanes. The Serb commander has admitted he has missiles.

Mr. Izetbegovic said he believed the Soviet-made Luna M65 missiles were intended for use against Sarajevo, a strategic town guarding the route to Sarajevo now packed with refugees from other war zones, and the capital itself.

Travnik and other towns in the central area were facing an outbreak of typhoid, confirmed by the World Health Organisation in Geneva. The source was traced to infected water in Jajce, a Muslim-held town which fell to the Serbs last month after heavy fighting in which its water system was destroyed.

Thousands of refugees from Jajce fled to Travnik, where many were camped out in the cold with nothing to eat. U.N. sources said some cases of typhoid had been reported there.

Turbe, a village outside Travnik where its Muslim and Croat defenders are making their stand, was reported under heavy attack Saturday but seemed relatively quiet Sunday after a British U.N. unit based in Vitez went in for a look and left a platoon there.

The leader of the British force, Colonel Bob Stewart, said the presence of the troops appeared to have had a calming effect on the situation.

Gen. Morillon, saying he believed the combatants wanted peace, told reporters after a week of meeting with rival leaders to try to shore up the ceasefire: "I have to trust everybody whom I meet because if not I would have to admit the whole thing was a mockery."

However officers serving with UNPROFOR said privately they believed the Serbs would not give up an inch of the territory they have conquered.

Meanwhile, Spanish and Belgian frigates stopped two merchant ships entering the Adriatic early Monday as Western navies went into action to enforce a blockade of the rump Yugoslav state, Italian naval sources said.

They said it appeared the 3,000-ton Spanish frigate Andania had stopped a Serbian ship and that the 1,940-ton Belgian frigate Westhinder had intercepted a Slovene vessel.

As both actions took place under cover of night, a search was delayed until daylight and the two ships were ordered to lie off the Brindisi Naval Base in the heel of Italy, the sources said. The ships are still being searched.

Earlier a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Westhinder had in fact stopped and searched a Syrian merchant ship.

The Italian sources said the Belgian account appeared to have confused the vessels and that a statement would shortly be issued by the Italian navy. "We are still double-checking but we are pretty sure this is how things went," one source said.

The action by the two warships taking part in a Western European Union (WEU) operation at the mouth of the Adriatic was the first time Western warships had intercepted traffic since U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia were toughened last week.

Italy is coordinating operations of both the five-warship WEU fleet and NATO's seven-ship Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (Stanavfor) which is patrolling the Mootenegrin coast.

The WEU and NATO said last week they would begin stop and search operations against vessels suspected of breaking the embargo.

Both organisations have had ships in the Adriatic since July, but they were previously allowed only to monitor naval traffic and had no powers to stop and search ships.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Fighting continues in Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia accused Azerbaijan Monday of shelling the capital of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh killing and wounding an unspecified number of people. ITAR-TASS News Agency said, it said long-range artillery fired at the capital Stepanakert from Azeri territory overnight and the shelling resumed early in the morning. Azerbaijan said it had hit two Armenian military helicopters over its territory and one of them crashed "probably killing the crew." The other helicopter was damaged but managed to return to Armenia, TASS said. Nagorno-Karabakh officials denied the report, local journalists said. They quoted the officials as saying eight people were killed overnight in the Askeran region in shelling by Azeri artillery. Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mostly by Armenians but under Azeri jurisdiction since 1923, is the bloodiest of the many territorial and ethnic conflicts in the volatile Transcaucasus and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Russian army chief dies aged 49

MOSCOW (R) — The 49-year-old head of Russia's armed forces general staff, Victor Dubynin, died in Moscow Monday, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. He refused to elaborate on the cause of death and said Colonel-General Dubynin, a veteran of the Soviet-Afghan campaign, died "after a long illness." Gen. Dubynin was appointed in June soon after the Russian Defence Ministry was formed following the collapse of the Soviet Union late last year. Before being promoted to the job, Gen. Dubynin served for two years as commander of Soviet forces in Poland, under his command, troops started withdrawing in April 1991. They have now completed the withdrawal.

24 killed in U.S. storms

JACKSON, Mississippi (R) — Hundreds of people are homeless from Texas to North Carolina in the wake of a fast-moving weekend storm that spawned dozens of tornadoes, killing at least 24 people and injuring about 300. Most of North Carolina, along with parts of West Virginia and southeastern Ohio, remained under a tornado watch until 1 a.m. east (0600 GMT) Monday. The storm boiled up over Texas late Saturday and swept northeast across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee with torrential rains, high winds and marble-sized hail. The death toll exceeded that of hurricane Andrew, which struck Florida and Louisiana in late August and killed 13 people. Officials estimated damage in the millions of dollars, thousands of homes and businesses remained without power late Sunday. Mississippi was hardest hit with 15 dead — including at least three children — and more than 200 injured during four hours of tornadoes that crossed 18 counties before daylight Sunday, a spokesman for the State Emergency Management Agency said.

Typhoon Gay passes over Guam

AGANA, Guam (AP) — Typhoon gay hit Guam Monday with lower winds than expected as the elongated eye of the storm passed over most of the island, according to the U.S. military's Joint Typhoon Warning Centre. There were no official damage reports because it was too windy to go outside, said Carl Gumataotao, spokesman for the Guam Civil Defence. He said there were no reports of injuries. As the eye of the storm passed directly over the capital city of Agana, "it got dead still and really sunny," said Dana Williams, assistant city editor at the Pacific Daily News. Winds picked up again as the back side of the storm moved over the Pacific Ocean island chain battered or threatened by six typhoons in three months. No major damage was apparent in Agana, Ms. Williams said.

Greenwich holds funeral for Mrs. Bush

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) — Dorothy Walker Bush, mother of President George Bush, is remembered by friends for her compassion and down-to-earth attitude. Mrs. Bush, who died Thursday at age 91 after suffering a stroke, was buried Monday after a private funeral service with friends and members of her family, including the president. The service for Mrs. Bush was held at Christ Church, a 287-year-old Episcopalian church where Mrs. Bush had been a parishioner since World War II. She was buried in Putnam Cemetery.

Russian Sputnik splashes down

ABOARD THE MARSHAL KRYLOV (R) — A space capsule containing a cut-glass replica of the Statue of Liberty and greetings from Russian President Boris Yeltsin splashed down Sunday off the Pacific coast. The Resurs 500 Sputnik satellite, which circled the Earth 111 times in six days, was billed as Russia's first private space launch and was targeted at the United States as a peaceful promotion marking the end of the cold war. The descent module, using a parachute to brake its fall, landed 10 nautical miles from the Russian missile tracking ship Marshal Krylov which recovered the capsule from stormy seas with the help of two crane-equipped helicopters.

3 Turks killed in German attack

MOELLN, Germany (R) — Three Turkish immigrants, one of them a child, died early Monday when two houses in the German town of Moelln were gutted in suspected arson attacks by right-wing radicals, authorities said.

Police said the fires killed two Turkish women aged 51 and 20 and a 10-year-old girl born in Germany of Turkish parents. Another nine people were injured.

After the fires broke out in Moelln, south of Luebeck, in northern Germany, an anonymous man phoned police and the fire brigade and said "Heil Hitler," police said.

The fires gutted two houses 500 metres apart used for many years by Turkish immigrant workers in the town near the former border to east Germany.

The women and the child, whose parents had lived in Germany for about 20 years, apparently died on the first floor of a two-floor apartment house, whose white facade was black from soot after the fire.

"The Turks were good friends of ours," Sabine Buettner, a German woman who lives across the street, told Reuters. "We never thought it was possible that something like this could happen."

"The screams for help woke me up. I saw a woman jumping from the window. We all think it is terrible," said Buettner, standing with other neighbours in the street watching officials search the house for clues of the fire.

The second house, cordoned off by police, was not visible from the street.

Some 45 people were in the buildings when the fires broke out shortly after midnight. The flames were later brought under control.

Prosecutor Guenter Moeller said Anon by right-wing extremists was suspected in the attack, which was condemned by local and national politicians.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) called for neo-Nazi activists to be punished severely, saying: "The terrible arson attack in Moelln raises fears of increased violence against foreigners."

"The SPD sharply condemns the attack. We are appalled and shocked."

There was no immediate comment from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government, which has been accused of not trying hard enough to contain a wave of right-wing violence against foreign asylum-seekers flooding the country.

The incident followed weekend clashes between neo-Nazis and extreme leftists in Berlin and east Germany in which one man was stabbed to death.

Anti-foreigner violence has plagued Germany virtually every weekend since neo-Nazi thugs firebombed a home for foreign refugees in the east German port of Rostock in August.

The Moelln attack brought the number of foreigners killed in right-wing violence in Germany this year to at least 14.

Right-wing extremists have carried out around 1,800 attacks on foreigners this year.

Fujimori party ahead in Peru elections

LIMA (R) — President Alberto Fujimori appeared to have won a mandate from Peruvian voters Sunday for his hard line against Maoist guerrillas and his efforts to drag his Andean country into the 20th century.

Soon after polling closed Sunday evening, two opinion survey firms, Apoyo and Datum, said candidates of the Nueva Mayoria-Cambio 90 slate backed by Fujimori had won enough votes for a slim majority in the country's new congress.

But the CPI polling agency said the official party would fall just short of an absolute majority in the 80-seat chamber. The official count began at midnight (0500 GMT Monday).

The strong opposition showing demonstrated Peruvians feared giving the president absolute power to govern in a country with a fragile democracy and weak institutions, political leaders, businessmen and analysts said.

"(The voters) have given their support to the president's programme but they have not given him a carte blanche," said Samuel Glaser, head of Lima's Chamber of Commerce.

The elections were aimed at

restoring democratic rule eight months after Mr. Fujimori dissolved and reorganised the judiciary, saying they were blocking economic reforms and his efforts to crush the left-wing guerrillas.

Far from showing rejection of Mr. Fujimori's "self-comp," the election ratified popular support for his tough policy towards Peru's two left-wing guerrilla groups.

Mr. Fujimori has 'seen on a wave of popular support since the capture of Abimael Guzman, the leader of the Maoist Shining Path, and other rebel leaders in September.

Dutch woman survives Vietnam crash

HANOI (R) — A Dutch woman found to have survived a Nov. 14 plane crash in southern Vietnam in which all were feared dead was brought to Ho Chi Minh City Monday on a special flight, Vietnam Airlines officials said.

They said Annette Herfkens, 32, who was traced to a small hospital in the remote village of Khanh Son in Khanh Hoa province Saturday night, was in good condition.

Searchers who located the wreckage on Nov. 19 confirmed that the other 30 people on board had died.

The victims included Ms. Herfkens' Dutch companion, William Van Der Pas, who headed the Vietnamese office of the Dutch bank International Nederlanden Bank.

A friend of Mr. Van Der Pas quoted Vietnam Airlines staff as saying Ms. Herfkens had only suffered minor injuries.

"She is alive and in good condition. She just lost two teeth and has a little scratch on the knees," he told Reuters, asking not to be identified.

Ms. Herfkens was driven north from Khanh Son to the coastal resort of Nha Trang Monday, then taken on a special Vietnam

Airlines flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

The airline announced at the weekend it had found the plane wreckage and bodies but made no mention of survivors. The Soviet-made YAK-40 disappeared in a typhoon minutes before its scheduled landing at Nha Trang.

The airline said Monday that teams found the remains of the other 30 people on board but had not yet identified them.

The six crew and most of the passengers were Vietnamese. Apart from Ms. Herfkens and her companion, there were four Taiwanese, one Frenchman, one Briton and one Swede on board.

Clinton aids Democrat in Senate poll

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President-elect Bill Clinton was taking a brief break Monday from planning his takeover of the federal government to campaign for a fellow Democrat fighting to remain in the Senate.

Senator Wyche Fowler, a southern liberal running for a second term, faces a runoff election Tuesday because he won only 49 per cent of the vote in the Nov. 3 general election. Georgia law requires a majority to win statewide races.

His Republican opponent, former Peace Corps director Paul Coverdell, got 48 per cent, and the other three per cent went to a Libertarian Party candidate.

If Sen. Fowler can hang on to his seat — a very big "if" since

Republicans are mounting a serious campaign to make up for their loss of the White House — and the Democrats win a special North Dakota Senate election on Dec. 4, Mr. Clinton's party would control 58 of the Senate's 100 votes.

That would leave the Democrats just two votes short of the three-fifths majority they need to keep the Republicans from stalling legislation through filibuster.

The North Dakota election is to fill the seat of Democratic Senator Quentin Burdick, who died on Sept. 8.

Mr. Clinton, who spent part of the weekend approving the make-up of key transition teams, was scheduled to visit Macon and Albany, Georgia, during a 10-

hour campaign swing.

Mr. Clinton's tour was expected to be but a brief distraction from the job of selecting the people and devising the policies that will guide the country after the new president is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

Mr. Clinton has 14 cabinet-level posts to fill and scores of deputies and assistants to find, covering policy areas from foreign affairs to health care to trade.

The delicate pace in selecting staff and Mr. Clinton's guarded stance on details of policy has raised eyebrows in some quarters, but a Newsweek survey released over the weekend suggests that most Americans are satisfied with the transition.

Yeltsin to clip parliament's wings

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has set his sight on a clear-cut victory in his showdown with Russia's rebellious parliament that will allow him to press ahead with radical economic reforms.

A senior aide said Sunday that Mr. Yeltsin wanted to tie up a constitutional accord between the executive and legislative bodies at next week's session of the supreme legislature.

State Secretary Gennady Burbulis said such an agreement would "clearly outline the duties and responsibilities of the president, the Supreme Soviet and the government (and) the rules and restrictions everyone will follow."

The session of the Congress of People's Deputies, opening on Dec. 1, has been billed as the setting for a decisive battle over the economy between conservative deputies and radical and reformers backed by the 61-year-old president.

Mr. Burbulis's remarks, quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency, made clear that Mr. Yeltsin intends to press for a new constitutional agreement at the session that will confirm his authority.

Mr. Yeltsin appears emboldened after the Supreme Soviet, the standing parliament, retreated last Friday and said it was ready to cooperate with him and his government.

It also refused to back a conservative deputy's proposal to start an impeachment process

against Mr. Yeltsin.

The Supreme Soviet, which has 220 deputies, is elected by the congress, a far more conservative body which has more than 1,000 members — many of them ex-

Communists from the Soviet era — and meets twice a year.

Fearing the congress would try to curb proposed reforms by getting rid of his reformist prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, and possibly also removing his right to form his own cabinet, Mr. Yeltsin first tried to postpone the scheduled session.

When that failed, he sought to capitalise on his popular mandate as Russia's first freely elected president and issued veiled threats that he would resort to some form of authoritarian rule.

Mr. Burbulis, a close Yeltsin confidant, declined to give details of the proposed constitutional agreement that would define areas of jurisdiction between the president, government and parliament during a stabilisation period of between one year and 18 months.

But his remarks clearly suggested Mr. Yeltsin did not simply want to weather the storm at the congress but would seek to clip parliament's wings and strengthen the executive's powers to prevent a time-consuming confrontation every six months.

Ahead of the session, Mr. Yeltsin has sought common cause with centre-right opponents in the influential Civic Union group backed by leading industrial directors.

The group, often critical in the past of Mr. Gaidar's overall reform programme, claims support from more than a third of congress deputies.

Though browbeaten by Mr. Yeltsin, conservative critics at the congress are expected to zero in on Mr. Gaidar, seen as particularly culpable for selling out to the West by adopting reforms approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Despite Mr. Yeltsin's truce with the Civic Union, some of its members agreed with conservative hardliners at the weekend to press a vote of no confidence in the government unless it came up with a programme of realistic reforms.

Interfax News Agency said the Civic Union members and the hardline Russian Unity Bloc agreed to seek the removal of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, Mr. Burbulis himself two other liberal government members if they did not get satisfied.

But they did not target Mr. Gaidar.

Mr. Yeltsin has not ruled out replacing some ministers. But he has said he will not drop Mr. Kozyrev or Mr. Gaidar and will not carry out any reshuffle under pressure from the congress.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss said Sunday President Yeltsin is heading towards "a very crucial time" and needs all the help he can get if his country's experiment in democracy is to succeed.



A view of St. George's Hall in Windsor Castle before it was destroyed by fire (AFP photo)

Accidental spill 'caused Windsor blaze' — papers

LONDON (R) — The blaze that consumed part of Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle started when a high-powered lamp ignited inflammable fluid used for cleaning paintings, British newspapers reported Monday.

The reports, which quoted unnamed fire investigators, said the spirit-based liquid accidentally spilled onto a halogen lamp, causing a fireball that swept through an entire section of the castle, seat of English sovereigns for 850 years.

The fire service responsible for the Windsor area would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

They said Friday's inferno started in a room where four art restorers were cleaning paintings ready for rehanging. The site was named as either the royal family's private chapel or the nearby Crimson Room.

"Flames leapt from the surface of the 250-watt halogen lamp to a nearby curtain which turned into a giant spear spreading the fire through the north-east wing," the Daily Express said.

The 30-hour blaze gutted several rooms including St. George's Hall, a magnificent state banqueting chamber.

Heir-to-the throne Prince Charles said the royal family was devastated at the damage to the queen's favourite home.

"It's a nightmare and I keep hoping to wake up," he said after surveying blackened battlements and the charred interior.

But royal officials said the disaster could have been far worse had it not for an "enormous stroke of luck" which spared virtually all the royal treasures that make up the world's largest private art collection.

Buckingham Palace said the seven most seriously damaged rooms at Windsor, west of London, had been emptied of art works for electrical rewiring work

before the blaze began.

As the fire spread, priceless belongings were hastily cleared from other threatened chambers in the 1,000-room castle by a human chain of workers — and the queen herself.

Presumed losses were limited to just a few items. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said experts believed they could "repair damaged works of art and furniture to their full glory."

"With all the help available to us and with the royal collection's own team of conservators available we will be able to restore pretty well all the items to their former condition," the spokesman said.

"It is clearly a long haul but we are confident of success."

Restoration of the gutted wing will take years.

Media reports estimate the cost of structural renovation at around £60 million (\$92 million) which, under present arrangements, the government must meet.

National Heritage Minister Peter Brooke was expected to inform parliament of restoration intentions Monday.

He is likely to face tough questioning from opposition Labour MPs who believe the queen, one of the world's richest women, should meet the bulk of the bill.

"This would avoid the taxpayer

having to foot the whole bill, particularly in view of the fact that she does not pay any tax at all," said Labour MP Robert Cryer.

Doubts have also surfaced about fire precautions at Windsor, which like other royal palaces is exempt from fire regulations. The blaze was the second at a royal palace in six years.

Apartment at Hampton Court, south of London, were recently reopened after a £12-million (\$18-million) refurbishment following a fire in 1986.



Young Japanese shed workaholic image

TOKYO (R) — Young are far less booked on their elders, and more inclined to stay loyal to employer, according to a recent survey. Quoting nationwide poll of city employees, Tokyo news Monday that only 36 per cent of their 20s saw work as purpose of life, again cent of the population.

While two out of three interviewed said they stay in their present retirement, the proper steeply for young.

According to the survey, prime minister's office, latest responses from employees nationwide: three-quarters of men and 70 per cent of women said they would stay in their present employment. Thirty per cent of men in their 19 per cent of women thought it better for stay home after having

restoring democratic rule eight months after Mr. Fujimori dissolved and reorganised the judiciary, saying they were blocking economic reforms and his efforts to crush the left-wing guerrillas.

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